



# THE INDEPENDENT

Nº 3,398

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1997

WEATHER: Dull and blustery at first; some sun later

40p

THE TABLOID

**THE UNLIKELY  
NEW  
SEX WAR**

THE TABLOID

**BRIDGET JONES  
FUNERAL THOUGHTS  
AND LEG WAXING**

**CITY+**

**OFFICE POLITICS  
AND OFFICE POWER**

## Abrasive Blair tells unions: modernise or die



Red flag flying: The Prime Minister outlines his vision for labour relations at the TUC conference in Brighton yesterday

Photograph: John Voss

**Barrie Clement**  
Labour Editor

In one of the most abrasive speeches ever delivered to the TUC by a Labour politician, Tony Blair yesterday warned trade unionists to modernise or die. Referring to comments by the leader of one of Britain's biggest unions, the Prime Minister said that some trade unionists needed to emerge into the "real world".

While he managed to combine toughness with geniality, his fundamental message was that the movement needed to adjust to the new flexible world of work and that he would be "watching very carefully" to see how the culture of modern trade unionism developed.

Making the first prime ministerial speech to the TUC for two decades, he urged delegates

to set aside prejudice and dogma.

Mr Blair, who received a respectful rather than rapturous one-minute standing ovation, said: "We will not go back to the days of industrial warfare, strikes without ballots, mass and flying pickets and secondary action and all the rest. You don't want it and I won't let it happen."

Marking another precedent, Dr George Carey became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to address the TUC, expressing his view that employers had a "moral responsibility" to recognise the chosen representatives of their employees. His comments were taken as an endorsement of the union recognition legislation planned by the Government, but opposed by many employers. Dr Carey was accused of "hypocrisy"

by Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF union, who pointed out that the Church of England refused to afford full recognition to his union.

On Monday the TUC unanimously backed a resolution calling for laws which allowed virtually unfettered support for industrial action and reinstatement of workers dismissed for taking part in lawful strikes.

However, Mr Blair reminded his audience that the Government is to introduce legislation for a national minimum wage, full rights for part-time workers and the right of representation for unions where most employees want it.

There were, he said, two qualifications - that as much as possible should be agreed with employers and there should be "genuine dialogue" to resolve potential problems.

He urged unions to emulate the Labour Party and modernise their political structures, and he made clear that he would be influenced by the persuasiveness of unions' arguments - not industrial muscle.

"The old ways - resolutions, the committee rooms, the fixing, the small groups trying to run the show - that's not the future,"

The Prime Minister singled out John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union for special admonition. Mr Edmonds had told the conference on Monday that he "shivered a little" when he heard Labour ministers using "Tory phrases such as 'flexibility'".

Mr Blair said: "We will keep the flexibility of the present labour market and it may make some shiver - but I'll tell you, its warmer in the real world." Later Mr Edmonds said: "I

had a dig at him, he had a dig at me. That's life, isn't it?" He welcomed the Prime Minister's assertion that flexibility and fairness were not incompatible, and backed his criticism of some modern management methods.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, applauded Mr Blair's contention that the union movement reflected the basic aspirations of the people. He acknowledged, however, that Mr Blair had delivered "some hard messages."

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, told a fringe meeting that her department was drawing up "Good Employer Guidelines" with the unions, aimed at ensuring that money spent outside the ministry went to employers who treated staff fairly. Carey row, page 4  
Leading article, page 15

## Wife wins damages for rape

**Patricia Wynn Davies**  
Legal Affairs Editor

Men who rape their wives risk being sued for thousands of pounds in civil damages, even if they escape criminal prosecution, an unprecedented ruling in favour of a mother-of-five has established.

In what is believed to be the first case of its kind in Britain, the 40-year-old woman began a civil action when police inquiries into the alleged attack by her husband ended in a decision not to prosecute.

The husband, whom the woman later divorced, was ordered to pay £14,000 in damages after a judge at Bradford County Court upheld her claim.

The woman's victory shows that, regardless of whether it leads to a criminal prosecution, rape within marriage can still rebound heavily on the perpetrator - and his pocket - in the civil courts. Such cases are decided on a balance of probabilities, a lower standard of proof than is required in the criminal courts, where allegations must be proved beyond reasonable doubt.

There were still criticisms, however, from women's rights campaigners, who believe that the justice system as a whole still takes a timid approach to rape within marriage.

The £14,000 award was in fact made last year - it is only now that the woman feels able to talk about the events leading up to it.

The attack took place in the former family home on Boxing Day night in 1992. The woman told a nurse about it two months

later and the police were informed but no criminal prosecution materialised.

A Crown Prosecution Service spokeswoman said that no reference to the defendant could be traced in area records, which suggests that the police may never have passed the file to the service for it to consider whether to pursue a prosecution.

It was being suggested yesterday that the woman's complaint was never proceeded with because it was felt that the husband would not repeat the offence and that a prosecution would not be in the public interest. But the CPS spokeswoman said: "We are bound by the code for crown prosecutors which requires cases to be prosecuted where there is enough evidence for a real prospect of prosecution."

The woman, who has since remarried and cannot be named for legal reasons, said: "It has been a terrible ordeal, but it has been worth it, especially if it helps other women."

"The civil courts are an alternative place for women to take and win cases and I would urge all women to use them in their fight for justice."

Mark Husband, the woman's lawyer, said both sides' legal teams had searched for precedents but none could be found.

The woman said: "At times I felt like giving up. I still feel that if he wasn't my husband he would have been put away for what he did. I am the one who has been left with a life sentence, because I can never forget what happened."

The decision is bound to prompt other women with un-

resolved rape complaints to follow suit. But Julie Bindel, assistant director of Leeds Metropolitan University's research unit on violence and abuse, emphasised that it highlighted the need to lobby for improvements in the justice system.

She said: "While I applaud the civil victory for this woman and her bravery in bringing it, women should not have to use the civil route for such a serious crime. If the Crown Prosecution Service was more courageous in taking cases, if it upped the stakes, then we would undoubtedly get more convictions."

Lesley McLean, manager of Surviving Trauma After Rape, a West Yorkshire rape support group, said: "What's most important to a woman who has been raped is being believed."

She added that there was a danger that civil cases would be seen as women wanting to get money out of rape. "That's already happening with criminal injuries compensation and it's having a detrimental effect."

"But if women are not given the opportunity for their case to be heard in a criminal court, they have every right to go down the civil proceedings road."

A special five-judge Court of Appeal, headed by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, made rape in marriage a crime in a landmark ruling in 1991. The decision was upheld by the House of Lords, decisively overturning the 250-year-old rule that a husband could not rape his wife, which rape law campaigners had condemned as a "legal lie."

## Third test confirms Diana's driver was over alcohol limit

**John Lichfield**  
Paris

Henri Paul, who drove the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales was fatally injured, HAD been drinking heavily and had traces of anti-depressant drugs in his blood, according to a new test.

A source close to the investigation told Reuters news agency that these drugs could have accentuated the damaging effect of any drinks he took before the crash on 31 August that killed Diana, Dodi Fayed, and Mr Paul himself.

French investigators last night released the results of a

fresh analysis - the third in all - conducted by an independent laboratory. It suggested that Mr Paul, 41, deputy head of security at the Ritz Hotel, was driving with a blood alcohol level of 180mg in 100ml. This is almost four times the French legal limit and equivalent to roughly eight glasses of wine.

Two previous tests placed Mr Paul's alcohol level just above and just below the new findings - at 175mg and 187mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood.

Last Friday, a British pathologist, retained by the Fayed family, cast doubt on the methods used in the first two tests. He said the only reliable blood-

alcohol test on a man crushed to death, like Mr Paul, was from a sample of blood taken from behind the eye.

French investigators did not reveal yesterday what method had been used in the third test. But sources close to the inquiry have angrily rejected the criticism, by Professor Peter Vanezis, as ludicrous.

The French newspaper *Le Figaro* reported yesterday that, if the drink-driving findings were confirmed, the investigating judges might take legal proceedings against the Ritz Hotel for "negligence" and "placing human life at risk".

The two magistrates leading

the investigation made their first visit to the accident scene yesterday. Judge Hervé Stéphan and his assistant, Judge Marie-Christine Devedal, spent 30 minutes in the tunnel under the Place de l'Alma.

*Le Figaro* printed a whole page question-and-answer article yesterday, in an attempt to answer some of the remaining mysteries about the crash last Sunday week. The article bore the hallmark of an attempt by police and the judges to scotch some of the wilder rumours.

According to *Figaro's* informants in the investigating team, there was NO jewellery or cash missing from the crashed car;

there was NO cocaine found in the vehicle; and claims by witnesses that they saw a car and motorcycle deliberately impeding the Mercedes before it crashed have been dismissed by the investigators as untrustworthy.

Lawyers for the Fayed family, which has already started a civil suit in association with the criminal investigation began new proceedings yesterday. They took action against a series of publications under French privacy laws, complaining of harassment of Diana and Dodi by helicopter-borne photographers in the south of France in the weeks before the accident.

Mourners killed, page 7

## Hungry for a quick takeaway? Just dial 999

**Jason Bennetto**  
Crime Correspondent

If you want to order a Chinese takeaway, force your teenager to turn down his hi-fi, or if you need help with closing the window, what number do you call?

For the people of Kent, the answer would appear to be 999.

Of the 170,000 emergency calls made to Kent Constabulary last year only about a quarter had anything to do with the police. The vast bulk were for the trivial, the mundane and the absurd. Many Kent residents also appear to view 999 as a cheap alternative to Directory Enquiries.

The police have finally had enough. In two weeks' time anyone who telephones 999 and asks a detective to inform their mother that they are going to be late home - as someone did earlier this month - will be given a verbal clip round the ear.

The operator will switch the caller onto a pre-recorded message which says: "The 999 service is for emergencies requiring urgent police attendance. Your call does not require urgent police attendance and you may have endangered someone with a genuine emergency."

The 125,000 wasted 999 calls to Kent police last year included:

■ Requests for the frequencies of local radio stations, and phone numbers for the local Chinese restaurant and the Dorchester Hotel in London.

■ A caller saying: "My window has just been painted and I cannot shut it. Can the police do it?"

■ A man who had a stray cat in his house.

■ A woman who asked the police to turn down her son's stereo.

■ A pregnant motorist who wanted to know whether she should wear a seat belt.

The police message also gives a number for a free information service. In return for the tens of thousands of calls the company that runs the service is likely to get, they are paying for a £100,000 campaign to publicise Kent's new 999 system.

Supt Robert Chidley, of Kent police, said: "This is the most important campaign we have ever waged. Abuse of the 999 service endangers everyone."

A police source was less diplomatic. "We're fed up of getting hoax calls from lazy and clueless people who are wasting valuable police time and putting lives at risk."



### QUICKLY

**Sinn Fein signs pledge**  
Ulster Unionists were facing new pressure to meet Sinn Fein at the start of peace talks next week after the republican leadership signed a pledge of non-violence which allows them to enter the talks. Page 4

**PIA boss stands aside**  
Collette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, one of the leading financial regulators, announced her resignation. She is not applying for one of the posts on offer under Labour's super-regulator. Pages 18, 19

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هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



## news

## significant shorts

## Race-hate ordeal for Frank Bruno's mother

Mother of the former world heavyweight boxing champion Bruno was forced to move home after a "frightening and racist" race-hate campaign against her, a court was told yesterday.

Sylvette Bruno said she was threatened with death and received abusive phone calls after her telephone number and address were printed in a Nazi magazine. Now, even more than a year after her ordeal began, she was still unable to sleep properly and was too scared to go home alone at night, she said in a statement read to London's Southwark Crown Court.

In the dock is lorry driver Robin Gray, 35, of Feltham, Middlesex, who denies two counts of possessing "threatening, abusive and insulting" racial inflammatory material with a view to distributing it. The charges relate to copies of *Störmer* magazine, which is published by Combar 18, a far-right group which derives the numbers in its title from the position in the alphabet of Adolf Hitler's initials. The case continues.

## Return ticket for tilting trains

Tilting trains are set to return to the nation's tracks - more than a decade after the last British Rail carriage pulled into the sidings. Great North Eastern Railway, Britain's fastest train service, has placed an order for two new sets of Italian Pendolino trains - which will start running in 2000.

Capable of running at more than 140 miles per hour, the tilting trains are expected to cut the London to Edinburgh journey time to just 3 hours 30 minutes - two hours less than the current time. BR began developing the idea of an advanced passenger train, which tilted in motion, 20 years ago - but the project was abandoned after passengers complained of feeling queasy.

Randeep Ramesh

## Two die in hospital E.coli outbreak

An outbreak of *E.coli* poisoning has claimed the lives of two patients and closed a hospital ward, it was disclosed yesterday.

The deaths occurred at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, where one patient was diagnosed with the infection and two others in the same ward were thought to have contracted it. The ward has been closed to admissions and infection control measures have been put in place.

## Branson to stage new balloon bid



Virgin boss Richard Branson said yesterday that he is planning to make another attempt to circumnavigate the world in a hot air balloon.

Asked during a visit to South Africa when he would be staging his next daredevil stunt, Mr Branson replied: "Foolishly, in two months. I am attempting to go around the world again." And referring to his failed attempt earlier this year when he was forced to ditch in the Algerian desert, Mr Branson said: "We think we've worked out what went wrong. Christmas for me could be in a balloon."

## Drugs warning over banana trade

Commonwealth banana growers could be tempted to turn to the drugs trade unless the European Union fights to protect the industry they rely on, a senior Labour MP warned yesterday.

Donald Anderson, chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, expressed his fears ahead of a meeting in Brussels today at which the European Commission will study a report by the World Trade Organisation that rules against the EU's attempts to protect banana exports from former British and French colonies on the grounds that they are anti-competitive.

## Vicar hands out route to heaven

A Church of England vicar has called for the thieves who raided his church to have their hands cut off.

The Rev Robert McConachie, 56, of St Dunstan's Church at West Peckham near Maidstone, Kent, made the call after thieves snatched a collection of 100-year-old figurines of the 12 apostles worth up to £5,000. "Cutting off the hands of thieves would act as a deterrent, but more important is the idea of repentance and restitution," he said. "Our prime aim in the church is to turn people away from sin and to save them from going to hell. Cutting off their hands would prevent them from further hindering their progress to heaven."

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Area	Cost	Area	Cost
Africa	£5.00	USA	£15.00
Asia	£5.00	UK	£1.00
Europe	£5.00	USA	£15.00
Latin America	£5.00	UK	£1.00
Middle East	£5.00	USA	£15.00
Oceania	£5.00	UK	£1.00
South America	£5.00	USA	£15.00
World	£5.00	UK	£1.00

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## people



Dedicated follower of fashion: A flamboyant tunic, decorated with multi-coloured sequins, that was once owned by Janet Street-Porter. It was auctioned yesterday. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Famous owner fails to add value to frock collection

A large collection of dresses belonging to TV personality Janet Street-Porter was yesterday auctioned for a total of only £3,000 - half the amount it was expected to raise.

The collection of 65 different items were sold in 26 lots at Christie's, in Kensington, west London. The eclectic and colourful collection included items designed by Jean Paul Gaultier, Ralf Ozbek and Vivienne Westwood. Many of the items sold were designed specifically for Ms Street-Porter.

One lot, which included a Westwood-designed chequered T-shirt with the slogan "God Save the Queen", was bought by contemporary art dealer Paul Stolper, who said he was more interested in the T-shirt's designer than in its former owner.

Mr Stolper, 32, from west London, said: "I bought it because I have a huge collection of early Vivienne



Westwood. I'm not interested in Janet Street-Porter and that was irrelevant to me in buying this."

A loud cocktail dress of metallic pink acetate was bought by Simon Smith, who runs a fancy-dress party clothes rental company of the same name in Brighton.

Mr Smith, 32, said the provenance of the dress might possibly

make it more in demand from his shop but believed its main selling point would be that it would fit most customers, adding: "It's a size medium."

The first lot, described in the Christie's catalogue as a "flamboyant tunic" and covered in multi-coloured sequins and beads was bought by Ms Street-Porter's former employers, the cable channel Live TV, which sent its news bunny to do the bidding.

After the auction, the news bunny was coy about what exactly would happen to the dress, but added: "We'll probably give it to Oxford."

After the sale, Christie's spokeswoman, Jill Potters, told reporters: "I think that Janet Street-Porter has a very individual personal style which possibly does not appeal to everybody. But there were some good prices here today although it may be Janet's taste doesn't appeal."

## Martin Amis embarks on his life story

The novelist Martin Amis has started work on his memoirs. In an interview with *Esquire* magazine tomorrow, he says that the book will partly tell the story of his cousin Lucy Partridge, who was murdered by Fred West, as well as telling parts of his own story as one of the last known British writers of the last two decades.

In particular, it will deal with his relationship with his father, the late Sir Kingsley Amis, who didn't read his son's books for fear he would not like them, the break up of his marriage and even the much publicised cosmetic surgery on his teeth. He says in his interview that the memoir is about "privacy intruded upon. The world takes you

over a bit, annexes you." In the interview, Amis says of his father: "Unlike me, my dad was incapable of telling a white lie. He was worried that he wouldn't like the books and would have hurt my feelings by telling me so. It was simpler for him not to read them at all... How could he be so incurious about me?"

Comparing the newspaper coverage of the break-up of his marriage to the break-up of his father's marriage, he says: "In those days, all you got was the old fashioned hypocrisy, some paragon of Fleet Street saying 'he's an adulterer.' Now you get a crackle of schadenfreudian laughter and scurrility that is gigglingly

hurled into the pot. When I was in the papers every day, I hadn't done anything. I'd left my wife, but as anyone knows who has been through it, no-one wants a marriage to break up. It only breaks up because it can't stay together... I am injured to it and always thought that it was part of the job, but that doesn't help the wife or the ex-wife or the children."

Still stung by the coverage of his dental treatment, he says he had "lifelong dental trouble on an order you wouldn't believe, it was and is serious and has always been the bane of my life."

Amis' new novel, *Night Train*, is published later this month.

David Lister

## briefing

## NUTRITION

## Study finds peanuts are good for the heart

When you sip that glass of red wine, don't forget to grab a handful of peanuts. Those, too, are healthy for the heart, according to a new study by scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture. Peanuts, although high in fat, contain the heart-friendly compound resveratrol.

"Frequent consumption of peanuts and or nuts result in reduced cardiovascular disease and lowered total cholesterol," said Dr. Timothy Sanders, a researcher for the USDA's research centre in Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Sanders, whose research was funded by the Peanut Institute of Albany, Georgia. Research on red wine has associated resveratrol with what's commonly called the "French paradox" - that is, despite a high-fat, high-cholesterol diet, the French population has a surprisingly low rate of heart disease.

Dr. Sanders isn't sure just how many peanuts one would have to eat to make a difference. The average concentration of resveratrol in red wine is 160 micrograms per fluid ounce. Sanders said the peanut seeds contain about 73 micrograms per ounce.

## TECHNOLOGY

## Surfers take the wheel

A computer chip manufacturer wants you to surf the information highway - even if you are cruising on the motorway.

Intel, which makes the Pentium microprocessor, yesterday teamed up with France's Peugeot-Citroen SA at the Frankfurt car show to show a car loaded with voice-controlled personal computer gear that could retrieve electronic mail, tap the Internet for news, spit out traffic updates or even play digital movies for the kids in the back seat.

Ron Smith, of the Intel group said: "I drive 20 minutes to work. It would be nice to selectively download news about certain work-related countries, financial markets, or industries." In-car Internet would also have some value to police, if your car is stolen. They could use the electronics to locate the car and shut down the electronic engine management system. If you're in an accident, the airbag could alert the system to automatically call for help.



## HEALTH

## Mouse helps in spina bifida fight

A mouse called Splotch has helped scientists take a big jump forward in the battle to conquer spina bifida, it was revealed yesterday. Researchers have isolated a defective gene in Splotch - so-called because of a white spot on her belly.

They believe the rogue gene is the key to why she gives birth to babies with the mouse equivalent of spina bifida, which can cripple or kill. The gene is called Pax 3, and the birth defect it causes can be prevented with supplements of the B-vitamin folic acid - which also helps prevent spina bifida in 70 per cent of humans.

Professor Andy Copp, from the University of London, who is heading the research, said "This gene is unlikely to be a major cause of spina bifida in humans, but we think that biochemically the process is very similar. The next step is to look inside the embryo and to see how the biochemical pathways are being altered by the Pax 3 mutation and how this is put right by folic acid."

## MOTORING

## Call to put driving on curriculum

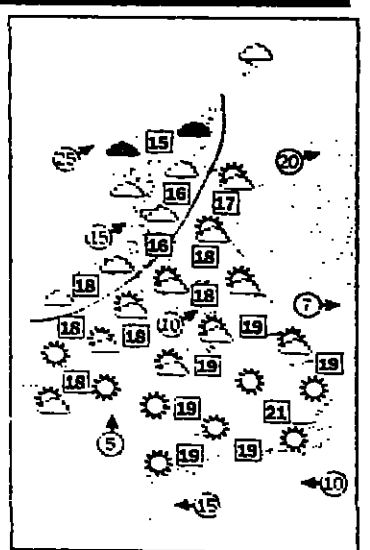
Nearly 70 per cent of drivers want driving to be taught as a "life skill" at school, according to a survey of 1,000 motorists.

The study, conducted for the RAC and *AutoExpress*, also showed that eighty-five per cent of motorists support the introduction of hazard perception skills as a compulsory part of the driving test. Nine out of ten drivers questioned wanted to see motorway skills introduced as part of the test.

A spokesman for the RAC said that many drivers out for the first time might be unnerved by motorway driving - especially if they were unused to seeing traffic moving at high speed. Also a priority was "night-driving". More than 85 per cent of those questioned believed that night driving skills ought to be assessed.

Randeep Ramesh

## WEATHER



Area	Temp	Area	Temp
Aberdeen	12	Cardiff	16
Argyll	12	Exeter	16
Belfast	12	Gloucester	16
Birmingham	12	Leeds	16
Bristol	12	Manchester	16
Cardiff	12	Newcastle	16
Edinburgh	12	Nottingham	16
Exeter	12	Oxford	16
Gloucester	12	Sheffield	16
Leeds	12	Southampton	16
Manchester	12	Stirling	16
Newcastle	12	Swansea	16
Nottingham	12	Torquay	16
Oxford	12	Wrexham	16
Sheffield	12	York	16
Southampton	12		
Stirling	12		
Swansea	12		
Torquay	12		
Wrexham	12		
York	12		

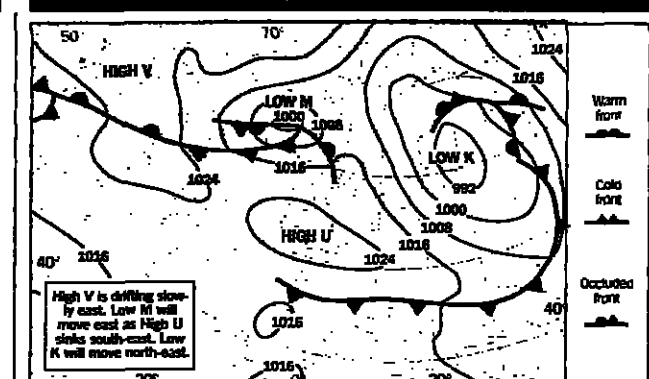
## The British Isles

## General situation and outlook

The far north of Scotland will be dull and windy with outbreaks of light rain or drizzle, and heavier bursts are expected tonight. Western Scotland will be cloudy but should stay dry until after dark. Eastern Scotland and Northern Ireland will have long spells of sunshine but cloud will increase this evening. England and Wales will start cold with fog at dawn. This will clear by mid-morning and then it will be mostly sunny. Rain will move south-eastwards across Scotland and Northern Ireland tomorrow and heavy bursts are likely as the wind freshens. Brighter, more showery weather will follow. After any fog has cleared, England and Wales will have some sunshine tomorrow but scattered showers will break out in the west. Blustery showers will move across all areas on Friday, introducing colder weather everywhere. Over the Scottish mountains showers will turn to snow. Saturday will be drier in the south but more rain is expected in Scotland.

Area	Temp	Area	Temp
Aberdeen	12	Cardiff	16
Argyll	12	Exeter	16
Belfast	12	Gloucester	16
Birmingham	12	Leeds	16
Bristol	12	Manchester	16
Cardiff	12	Newcastle	16
Edinburgh	12	Nottingham	16
Exeter	12	Oxford	16
Gloucester	12	Sheffield	16
Leeds	12	Southampton	16
Manchester	12	Stirling	16
Newcastle	12	Swansea	16
Nottingham	12	Torquay	16
Oxford	12	Wrexham	16
Sheffield	12	York	16
Southampton	12		
Stirling	12		
Swansea	12		
Torquay	12		
Wrexham	12		
York	12		

## Europe and The World



Area	Temp	Area	Temp
Athens	28	Florence	28
Auckland	15	Frankfurt	15
Bangkok	30	Geneva	15
Barcelona	27	Gibraltar	15
Bombay	27	Helsinki	15
Buenos Aires	27	Istanbul	15
Calcutta	27	Jerusalem	15
Cairo	27	Jo'burg	15
Canberra	27	Kuala Lumpur	15
Chennai	27	London	15
Copenhagen	15	Madrid	15
Dakar	27	Manila	15
Darwin	27	Moscow	15
Dhahran	27	Munich	15
Hong Kong	27	New York	15
Jaipur	27	Nicosia	15
Jakarta	27	Paris	15
Johannesburg	27	Prague	15
Kuala Lumpur	27	Rangoon	15
London	15	Rio de Jan	15
Madrid	15	Rome	15
Manila	15	Stockholm	15
Moscow	15	Sydney	15
Munich	15	Tenerife	15
New York	15	Tokyo	15
Nicosia	15	Toronto	15
Paris	15	Ulaanbaatar	15
Prague	15	Warsaw	15
Rangoon	15	Wellington	15
Rio de Jan	15	Zurich	15
Rome	15		
Stockholm	15		
Sydney	15		
Tenerife	15		
Tokyo	15		
Toronto	15		
Ulaanbaatar	15		
Warsaw	15		
Wellington	15		
Zurich	15		

## AA Roadwatch

London, A11 Leiston. Lane closure at A12 roundabout until August 1998. Closed until January 1998. Surrey, M25 J10. Lane closures both ways until further notice. Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998. Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On Trent. Major works at Melton March 1998. Luton, A6 Leighton. Contraflow near M1 J24. Berkshire, A34 between M4 J13 Chicheley Services and Newbury (A4). Roadworks, contraflow and narrow lanes with a 40mph speed limit for the Lechlade bypass work. Greater Manchester, A627 Bury. Temporary lights on Ashton Rd. Merseyside, A507 Bold. Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice. Type & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth. West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks until Sept 15. Bucks, M40 J14-3. Roadworks with contraflow J14 (M25) and J1.

Area	Temp	Area	Temp
Athens	28	Florence	28
Auckland	15	Frankfurt	15
Bangkok	30	Geneva	15
Barcelona	27	Gibraltar	15
Bombay	27	Helsinki	15
Buenos Aires	27	Istanbul	15
Calcutta	27	Jerusalem	15
Cairo	27	Jo'burg	15
Canberra	27	Kuala Lumpur	15
Chennai	27	London	15
Copenhagen	15	Madrid	15
Dakar	27	Manila	15
Darwin	27	Moscow	15
Dhahran	27	Munich	15
Hong Kong	27	New York	15
Jaipur	27	Nicosia	15
Jakarta	27	Paris	15
Johannesburg	27	Prague	15
Kuala Lumpur	27	Rangoon	15
London	15	Rio de Jan	15
Madrid	15	Rome	15
Manila	15	Stockholm	15
Moscow	15	Sydney	15
Munich	15	Tenerife	15
New York	15	Tokyo	15
Nicosia	15	Toronto	15
Paris	15	Ulaanbaatar	15
Prague	15	Warsaw	15
Rangoon	15	Wellington	15
Rio de Jan	15	Zurich	15
Rome	15		
Stockholm	15		
Sydney	15		
Tenerife	15		
Tokyo	15		
Toronto	15		
Ulaanbaatar	15		
Warsaw	15		
Wellington	15		
Zurich	15		

## AN APOLOGY

We would like to apologise for the unfortunate positioning of a QPD advertisement within Real Life on Sunday 7th September. No disrespect was intended.



# Lazy lifestyle blamed for rise in obesity

Nicholas Schoon  
Environment Correspondent

Lack of physical exercise is the cause of Britain's rapid, dangerous and extremely expensive increase in obesity over the past two decades, scientists agreed yesterday. Illnesses such as heart disease related to excessive fat are reckoned to cost the NHS £2bn a year – 6 per cent of its total budget.

On average, people actually eat less than they did 20 years ago and they even eat less total fat. But populations in Western countries like

Britain are still fattening up, putting on a gram a day on average or nearly a pound a year.

Obesity was a major theme at the British Association of Advancement of Science's week-long festival in Leeds yesterday, as researchers summarised the state of play.

Science broadcaster and former BBC *Tomorrow's World* presenter Judith Hann also delivered a stern lecture against lazy eating habits, lazy parents, convenience foods and the decline in families eating together.

Dr Andrew Prentice, of the Medical Research Council's clinical nu-

trition centre in Cambridge, said more and more genes were being discovered which pre-disposed people to obesity. But genetics could not be blamed for the spread of obesity – the genes had not changed while the population had become distinctly fatter.

Very obese women were 100 times more likely to develop diabetes, and even slightly overweight people "which covers many of us in this audience" were at 10 times higher risk, said Dr Prentice.

Strictly controlled experiments had shown that while fat people of-

ten blamed their weight on a low metabolism, they almost always have a normal or higher metabolism than average, Dr Prentice said. This was because they develop more muscle tissue to shift their extra bulk around. Fat people had been notoriously difficult to study, he said, because they invariably underestimated the amount they eat when asked by researchers to log their diet, or started eating less than they normally would when under scrutiny.

The proportion of fat in the average diet has increased as people have eaten more luxurious foods and

meat. The body is much quicker to metabolise protein, carbohydrates and alcohol than fat. But since, overall, people are eating less food and less total fat than they did 20 years ago, the marked increase in obesity during that period is planned firmly on the decline of exercise.

Dr Prentice pointed to the spread of labour-saving devices, from the television remote control to the lift and the escalator. Car ownership has also grown rapidly: while the great majority of children walked to school in the 1960s the opposite is now true.

Put together, all contribute to a re-

duction in the amount of exercise that most people take. However, Dr Prentice said he took hope from the strong link between obesity and levels of earnings and education. If the population became more affluent and better educated the tide of rising obesity could be turned.

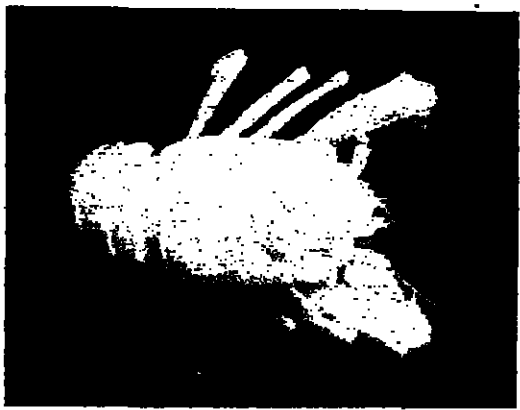
■ The absence of a piece of DNA containing just 17 genes can cause a huge range of birth abnormalities, including heart defects, immune-system deficiencies and cleft palate, writes Charles Arthur.

Adults who lack the same stretch of genetic material are also more

likely to develop obsessive-compulsive disorders, such as excessive hand-washing, John Burn, professor of clinical genetics at Newcastle University, told the meeting.

The block of DNA responsible for the problems normally lies on the main part of chromosome 22, of the 23 pairs of human chromosomes. It is about 2 million base pairs long, and contains 17 gene locations. In people with problems, the genes "are known to be missing, but we don't know which is the important one", said Professor Burn. Studies are now under way to try to pin it down.

## The monsters that emerged from beneath the deckchairs



Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

For years, tourists have flocked to the holiday resorts of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, relaxing on the sandy beaches in blissful ignorance that fantastic sea creatures, never before seen by man, are lurking silently beneath their deckchairs in underground caves.

But the tourism trade in resorts such as Majorca, Ibiza and the Bahamas threatens these unique animals, whose habitat is below the volcanic islands, researchers claim.

Geoff Boxshall, of the Natural History Museum, has discovered huge varieties of sea life, including crabs, shrimps and sea-lilies, which have followed their own evolutionary paths after being trapped thousands of years ago when the caves formed on the ocean floor.

Reaching the partly flooded caves, which are cut off from the open sea, can take up to eight hours' swimming. But once inside, "seeing is believing", says Professor Boxshall. The caves range from a few metres high up to 20 metres, interlaced with huge stalactites and stalagmites, and the water contains an amazing diversity of life.

However, the increasing demand on the islands for fresh water, sewage outlets and amenities such as golf courses could destroy the creatures, which offer important clues to continental drift and how evolution occurs in isolated groups of creatures.

"There are fantastic animals there which occur nowhere else on Earth," Professor Boxshall told the Festival

of Science yesterday. "They only separated from the rest about 12,000 years ago. That's a short time in the scale of evolution. They're unique, and need to be protected."

The animals represent more than one entirely new genus – a wide-ranging biological classification. (Domestic cats and lions, for example, belong to the same genus, *Felis*.) By finding the nearest relatives of the animals, scientists can track how the islands moved with continental drift – in some cases, to opposite sides of the Atlantic.

But increasingly, the caves are under threat. One was discovered by hotel workers who were digging a sewage outlet. Others are being affected by the extraction of water for desalination to supply the burgeoning tourist trade on the islands. "The scale of removal of groundwater has resulted in the penetration of sea water far into the centre of the Mallorca," Professor Boxshall said of a recent discovery on the island. That contamination could kill the unique crabs, which have grown used to fresh water. Elsewhere, the building of a golf course threatened to fill in an underground cave with rubble.

The creatures were trapped in the caves as the islands were formed in bursts of volcanic activity on the seabed. They then evolved to survive in darkness and in water with low levels of salt and dissolved oxygen.

Professor Boxshall hopes that the tourism industry might be persuaded to exploit its biological treasure rather than plundering it. Some of the caves have been marked for preservation, while other better-known ones have been opened to the public.



Cova de sa Bassa Blanca in Mallorca, home to unique species, including the blind white crab *Munidopsis* (above left) Photograph: Ross Parry

## Stress gets the blame for sick offices

Nicholas Schoon

"Sick building syndrome" is caused by the work pressures placed on today's office staff as well as by germs and indoor pollution, the British Association was told yesterday.

A study of several large government and private sector office buildings in Glasgow where there have been widespread complaints of illness was made by Dr Christopher Baldry, of the University of Strathclyde.

He painted a bleak portrait of a large bank's "call centre" in the city where mortgage applications are dealt with. Trade unions are not recognised, sickness rates are well above the average and staff turnover rates are high. "People leave in droves" he said.

European Union guidelines controlling how long people could spend at their screens were ignored by managers at that office and in others he studied. Tea breaks were history; staff were expected to stay at their desks for seven or eight hours a day.

Added to this, new technology and work practices allowed managers to oversee – and oppress – office staff in ways which could not have been conceived of 20 years ago. They could monitor how quickly staff processed work, look at whatever an employee had on his computer screen, listen in to telephone calls made to customers and they could tell instantly how quickly sales were being made.

"It used to be that you could not really monitor office work," said Dr Baldry. "Not any more – the staff know they are being watched."

But Dr Baldry said he was certain that sick buildings were also caused by bad architecture and poor management. The classic sick office has sealed windows, air conditioning, synthetic furnishings and an open plan layout in which people sit far from windows and rely on artificial light.

The air is too dry, too cold or too warm; there have been cases of staff bringing in portable fan heaters in mid-summer to try to defeat the air conditioning and keep warm. Cynical managers have even been known to install dummy heating controls, giving the illusion that the temperature can be controlled.

In one large government office in Glasgow simply unsealing the windows so that staff could open them helped produce a dramatic fall in sicknesses.

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Putting the message across: The Conservative party leader, William Hague, standing before the poster endorsing the 'No, No' campaign in Edinburgh yesterday. Photograph: Brian Harris

## Thatcher upstages Hague mission

Stephen Goodwin

Baroness Thatcher - Madame Puff Bluff in the Scots' pantheon of demagogues - yesterday cast a baleful shadow over William Hague's big day out in Scotland, blunting his efforts to persuade voters to turn away from home rule.

Ministers and the alliance of parties supporting a Scottish Parliament could scarcely suppress their delight at the former prime minister's intervention in the last days of the referendum campaign. Baroness Thatcher said the Government's proposals were a "negotiation" of shared history and would awaken a "resilient English nationalism".

Meanwhile, the Chancellor Gordon Brown sought to bolster a double Yes vote on Thursday with a promise that the new parliament would show the same prudence over public spending in Scotland that he had demanded of UK govern-

ment departments.

While the assurance was designed to quell business fears of MSPs letting the brakes off public spending, it will not be welcome by Labour councillors and union leaders who were dismayed at Mr Brown's "iron" pledges against more spending made before the election.

"We will start our stewardship in a Scottish Parliament by saving, not spending," Mr Brown said in Edinburgh.

The lecturing tone of Baroness Thatcher's article in *The Scotsman* was a reminder of the arrogance that so irked the Scots in the 1980s and fuelled the demand for home rule. Seizing the gift, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said Baroness Thatcher was a "living monument as to why we want a Scottish Parliament. Mrs Poll Tax has come back to haunt the Tories and the No campaign."

For Mr Hague, hoping to make maximum impact in the last 48 hours before polling, it was exactly the damaging distraction he could have done without. Baroness Thatcher had a long-standing £50,000 engagement to address American travel agents at a Glasgow conference but No campaigners had urged her not to enter the devolution debate.

Her disregard for that advice meant before Mr Hague was

able to make his own anti-home rule case, he had first to try to shrug off the Thatcher factor. "I think all debate is helpful," he said without a hint of conviction.

Mr Hague's message was not so different from that of the baroness, though the tone was softer. He said the "cobble-stone" nature of the proposals and the inequality of Scottish MPs being able to vote on English affairs while the reverse was

not possible would "sow the seeds of resentment".

The Tory leader visited a school for a question-and-answer session. He told the 16 and 17-year-olds of the New Royal High School, an Edinburgh comprehensive, that if higher taxes were available to a Scottish Parliament it could affect their futures. However in a show of hands, the 80 modern studies pupils voted by a clear majority for a devolved parliament and narrowly in favour of tax-raising powers. They have no vote on Thursday but seemed accurately to reflect the current opinion of Scotland.

Campaigning from a battle bus, John Prescott, the deputy prime minister, said the parliament would "pave the way" for more devolved government in England.

Hamish McRae, Sheena McDonald, page 17  
Letters, page 15

## Camps claim scalps as key figures switch allegiance

Tony Heath

Retaliation was the name of the game in the Welsh devolution battle yesterday with both sides intent on parading prisoners.

Anti-devolutionists were basking in the news that Allan Rogers, Labour MP for Rhondda, and Alan Williams, MP for

Swansea West since 1964, had declared their intention to register "No" votes in the referendum on 18 September.

Meanwhile, the pro-devolutionists claimed a couple of Tory scalps. Philip Pedley, a former national chairman of the Young Conservatives and Peter Price, a former Tory MEP, said they were

switching to the "Yes" camp. Mr Pedley, who was personal assistant to David Hunt when he was secretary of state for Wales, said he was appalled at the actions of some of those opposed to an assembly, adding: "The real solution to the democratic deficit is an elected assembly representing the whole strata of Welsh opinion."

Meanwhile, Mr Rogers said: "If the devolution proposals were part of a structured development of the United Kingdom with all areas being treated in the same way, I would support it 110 per cent. But what we see is the hysterical response to nationalism without it really being thought through."

## Sinn Fein agrees pact to end the violence

David McKittrick  
Ireland Correspondent

Sinn Fein yesterday formally signed up to principles of commitment to non-violence and democracy at a talks session in Belfast which was devoid of all Unionist presence.

The three main Unionist groupings and the two smaller loyalist organisations stayed away from the proceedings, at the multi-party talks at Stormont, signalling that most of them regarded the exercise as a sham. It was, however, presented by the British and Irish governments, and by Sinn Fein itself, as something of a watershed in Northern Ireland politics. The party formally subscribed to the six "Mitchell principles" formulated by the talks' chairman, the former US Senator George Mitchell.

These pledged a commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations, a renunciation of the use of force and agreement to abide by the terms of any new agreement reached in the negotiations.

The undertaking was given by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president who led an eight-strong delegation into the talks and, when called upon by Senator Mitchell, affirmed his agreement with the principles. The day saw a political role reversal, in that Unionists have generally been inside the talks building while Sinn Fein was ritually refused admission.

In the long term, attention will be focused on whether the ceasefire declared by the IRA in July will hold. More immediately, however, all eyes will be on the Ulster Unionist party,

which must now decide whether and how to join in the talks proper when they open on Monday.

A key meeting of the Ulster Unionist party executive, which is to take place on Saturday, will help David Trimble, the UUP leader, gauge opinion in the party and in the Protestant population generally. The party executive will not make the decision but will have an important bearing on the eventual decision.

Tony Blair, speaking in Brighton, said the Government would hold Sinn Fein to yesterday's declaration. He added: "Let us hope that at long last the ancient enmities of hatred and sectarianism can be laid to rest and the people of Northern Ireland can have the future they want and deserve."

Senator Mitchell said he believed this was the best opportunity ever for all sides to try to reach agreement. He added that it was the first time in the modern history of Northern Ireland that talks were going on at the same time as a ceasefire.

In his comments to the talks session Mr Adams said: "We want to take all the guns out of Irish politics. We want a total demilitarisation of the situation and we want all prisoners released." He said he was disappointed that Unionist leaders were absent, and hoped that they would resume their role in talks.

The general assumption among talks participants is that the Ulster Unionists will not walk away from the negotiations, but will probably not sit down face to face with Sinn Fein. This means the most likely arrangement will be one of proximity talks, with discussions going on at one remove.

## Private firms may have to cover for disability benefit

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

The escalating burden of state benefits for the disabled could be eased by spreading the risk to employers and private insurance plans, government advisers said yesterday.

The proposal, from the independent Social Security Advisory Committee, will be welcomed by ministers searching for significant cuts in the £93bn Social Security budget.

One Whitehall source said the Government's development of the private Stakeholder's Pension would eventually make it much easier to "bolt on" other elements of private provision - like private health insurance, covering disability for those in work.

The bill for long-term sickness and disability is expected to reach £23.5bn this year - one quarter of the Social Security

budget. The burden rose by 60 per cent in the last five years, and there are now an estimated 2 million claimants.

That means there are now more disabled claimants than unemployed, but their benefits bill is more than three times as much as the £7bn paid to those who are out of work.

Yesterday's report said: "We remain of the view that the private sector is not currently in a position to take on the wide range of risks which the State must cater for if there is to be a safety net for everyone."

"But there is a growing market in group permanent health insurance. By sharing the risks among all the employees of a company, the premiums are lower than for each individual."

The report concluded: "There is a growing climate of opinion that the State should not undertake functions which can be done better or more eco-

nomically by the private sector."

"There is no certainty that a suitable package could be devised, but we believe that a greater involvement by employers and/or the insurance industry in provision for longer-term incapacity/disability is worth exploring."

The advisory committee report, which complained about the "gulf" in benefit provision between people with different incapacities, said there was an inbuilt disincentive for those who received long-term Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance to attempt to work.

Gordon Brown allocated an initial investment of £200m for Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, to explore ways of devising a welfare-to-work package for the disabled. But yesterday's report said: "A disabled person who has the drive and capacity to do

some work risks losing entitlement to benefit, with no guarantee that it can be regained in the future if, having sought and found work, it does not endure or the disabling condition worsens permanently or temporarily."

"Unless forced to take work, or assured of a permanent, well-paid job, there is every incentive for a beneficiary to 'sit tight'."

In a separate development, Ms Harman last night welcomed a Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on lone mothers, which said that training and qualifications gave the women a much improved chance of getting work and more money.

"Those with even the lowest level of school qualifications averaged 20 per cent more in hourly earnings than those without any qualifications," the report said.

## Carey in TUC hypocrisy row

Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

George Carey yesterday became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to enter the lion's den of trade unionism and was accused of hypocrisy for his trouble.

Dr Carey's assertion to the TUC Congress that employers had a "moral responsibility" to recognise unions was compared unfavourably with the Church of England's refusal to recognise the MSF union.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the union, who claims 400 members in the Anglican communion, called on the Archbishop to "practise what he preaches". He accused Dr Carey of presiding over a medieval system for dealing with priests and argued that his support for union rights sat uneasily with the church's "hire and fire" approach to management.

"In commending to others what he will not allow his own employees, he will be seen as acting hypocritically. The



Dr Carey with John Monks, the TUC general secretary, before making his address. Photograph: John Voos

priest's vocational commitment is often exploited. There is clearly a problem of poverty pay."

The Rev Stephen Trott, the MSF clergy section chair, said priests were the only category of workers in the country who enjoyed no employment rights. "The church must put its own house in order."

Mr Lyons' attack and the comments by Mr Trott con-

trasted with the standing ovation afforded Dr Carey by the 800 TUC delegates in Brighton, some of whom ventured that union leaders should seek to emulate the passion displayed by the Archbishop.

In his address Dr Carey, a former member of both the old Electrical Trades Union and Nalco local government union, said that Christian social concern dictated that workers

should be allowed an input into decisions which affected their lives. They should not be "denied a right to be represented by a trade union of their own choice in dealings with their employers".

He added: "I believe that, in broad terms, employers have a moral responsibility to recognise the chosen representatives of their employees."

This was widely interpreted as an endorsement of union recognition laws planned by the Government and opposed by many employers.

Told of Mr Lyons' criticisms, the Archbishop said: "I hope the consistency of my argument speaks for itself. I recognise the right of unions everywhere."

A spokesman for the church pointed out that successive industrial tribunals had decided that priests were not employed by the church but worked for God. "In a sense they are self-employed, but have a stipend from the church so that they can lead a reasonable life while they are carrying out their ministry."

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# Prostate cancer to hit one in four

Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

Prostate cancer, which will strike one in four men by 2018, is threatening to overtake lung cancer as the most common type of cancer diagnosed in the United Kingdom, the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) warned yesterday.

Despite the high incidence, less than £1m is spent each year on research into the disease, which claimed the rock star Frank Zappa and former Goon, Michael Bentine, compared with £16m spent on breast cancer and £15m spent on Aids research.

Launching a new campaign "Everyman", the ICR said it desperately needed £3m to set up the UK's first male cancer research centre. The campaign also hopes to raise the profile of prostate and testicular cancers encouraging men to find out more about them, discuss the issues and not to hide behind their embarrassment.

About 16,000 men develop prostate cancer every year, from which around 11,000 will die. Today one in ten men can expect to get prostate cancer and in 20 years' time the disease will affect one man in four.

"Prostate cancer has been neglected," said Professor Colin Cooper, of the ICR, describing it as "one of the major health concerns in the UK". "Often it is perceived as a disease of old men who do not have long to live and so it has not been attacked with the urgency that has gone into finding a cure for breast and cervical cancer. Men as young as 40 may die of prostate cancer, while many older men who have the disease might expect to live for an extra 10 or even 20 years if they were cured of it."

The incidence of testicular cancer, which occurs mainly in men aged 24-35, has also been doubling every 20 years with 1,500 men developing the disease in 1996. More than 95 per cent of tumours can be cured when caught at an early stage.

Cancer, particularly male cancers, remain a "forbidden subject" among men, according to Clare Moyrhan medical sociologist at the ICR. "Men often deny the problem," she said. "One man whose father and brother died of prostate cancer said he was so frightened he just didn't want to know anything about it. He preferred to leave it to fate."

Little is still known about why men develop prostate or testicular cancer. Prostate is thought to be linked to environment or diet, while it has been suggested that exposure to oestrogens could cause testicular cancer as well as genetic predispositions.

A controversial blood test, known as the PSA (prostate specific antigen), became available 15 years ago. PSA measures the level of a protein produced by all prostate cells.

In general, a reading of four indicates cancer is unlikely, with the probability of disease increasing with a rising count up to 22. Over 22, cancer is highly likely. As men age, their prostates grow larger and the count rises anyway - but a dramatic rise is indicative of cancer. However, earlier this year mass screening was effectively ruled out after researchers concluded that a current test is unreliable, and unlikely to make any impact on death rates.

□ *The Male Cancer: a hidden problem* is available from the ICR, 17a Onslow Gardens, London SW7 3AL.



Angry young man: Damien Hirst yesterday with his new book (above and top)

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



## Hirst snubs 'fat, stuffy, pompous' Royal Academy

David Lister  
Arts News Editor

Damien Hirst, the biggest name among the current crop of young British artists, has turned down the chance of election to the Royal Academy, labelling it "a big, fat, stuffy, old, pompous institution".

He added, in only slightly more measured terms, his fear that if there was a revolution, membership of the Royal Academy would hasten his being put up against the wall.

The attack on the art establishment by the 33-year-old purveyor of pickled sheep could not be more ill timed for the Royal Academy. Next week it opens its first exhibition of young British artists. Entitled *Sensation*, the exhibition taken from the Saatchi collection will feature five of Hirst's installations, including pickled sheep and sharks.

The Royal Academy had hoped the exhibition would rejuvenate its image, which had taken a knock in the spring when Hirst's fellow conceptualist Rachel Whiteread was elected to the RA but also turned down the honour.

Yesterday Hirst stuck the knife in further. He said: "I was approached by Norman Rosenthal, the RA's exhibitions sec-

retary, about becoming an RA. But I did not want my name to go forward. I'm just slipping out of being an *enfant terrible*. I'm more interested in art than being a member, plus if there's a revolution they come and kill you, don't they?"

"The idea is ridiculous. I got Cs in all my O-levels and A-levels [in fact he got an E for Art O-level] and only just got my cycling proficiency. It's the last thing I want."

A Royal Academy spokeswoman declined to comment.

Hirst was yesterday launching his first book *I Want to Spend the Rest of my Life Everywhere, with Everyone, One to One, Always, Forever, Now*. It contains pop-up butterflies, interviews, press cuttings and a John and Yoko style picture of Hirst and his wife Maya with their private parts covered up at the insistence of the authorities in China where the book was produced.

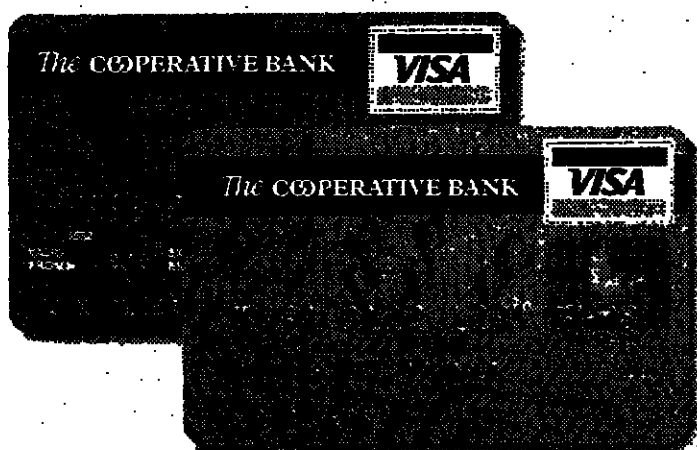
In true Hirst style the book has replaceable stickers of the couple's private parts that readers in the west can stick back on.

Publisher Edward Booth-Clibborn defended the £60 price, saying: "Students will spend that much on a pair of sneakers."

Hirst himself added: "Buying this is like having Damien Hirst for yourself."

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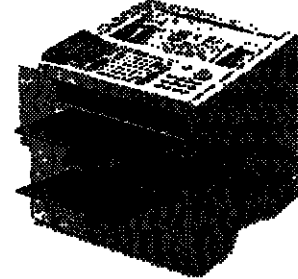
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# Safety fear sparks plea to stop flowers for Diana

Louise Jury and Christian Wolmar

Two women in a party of daytrippers on their way to lay flowers in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, were killed yesterday in a motorway crash.

The group of women in their 50s had set off from Nantwich, Cheshire, for a pre-booked tour of the palace, carrying bouquets which it was understood they intended to lay at the gates.

But two were seriously injured and later died when their 53-seater coach was involved in a crash with a heavy goods vehicle and a Ford Transit van near Cannock, Staffordshire.

The accident happened as Northamptonshire police and the Althorp Estate appealed for people to stop bringing flowers to Diana's family home amid fears for safety in the narrow lanes.

After Earl Spencer allowed himself to be pictured surrounded by a sea of flowers on the island where the princess is buried, the estate found even more were left at the gates yesterday.

An estate spokeswoman said they had not decided what would happen to the new

blooms but they could not be taken to the island.

"It is turning into a problem," she said. "We are now concerned for public safety, both near the gates and in the surrounding lanes."

She suggested people should give a donation to the Diana memorial fund instead. Northamptonshire police backed the idea.

The committee which is examining suitable memorials for Diana is to consider the permanent closure of the Mall which links Trafalgar Square with Buckingham Palace.

The Mall has been closed since the day of Diana's death and cannot be reopened until the numbers of people visiting the St James's and Buckingham palaces drops significantly.

Officials at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been impressed by the fact that despite the closure of the road, extra traffic has not clogged the alternative routes.

The "Diana" committee will meet as soon as Gordon Brown, who is to chair it, returns from devolution duty in Scotland. The Department is anxious to press on with arrangements to create a permanent memorial, probably in Kensington Gar-

dens. The task of removing the flowers will start at St James's Palace tomorrow morning, to be followed by Kensington Gardens where the pile is at some points 5ft deep with the bottom

layer starting to compost at a temperature of up to 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Department refuses to issue an estimate of the cost of the operation but with huge

screens, 2,000 people and 100 contractors and sub-contractors involved, the bill is likely to be tens of millions of pounds. It will be met by the Government's contingencies fund.

Thousands are still flocking to pay their respects. Up to 700 people an hour were signing the 42 books of condolence, now at Kensington Palace. The total has passed the half million

mark. American Dr Jean Ford, 51, an education lecturer, flew to Britain from Chicago, USA, yesterday to "stand with the British people at this time of grief".

The BBC and PolyGram, the record company, hope to release an album of Diana's funeral service at Westminster Abbey if the Spencer family give consent.



Hanging gardens of Kensington: Tributes to Diana adorn trees in the grounds of her London home

Photograph: David Rose



Carl Rickard's mother, Lyn, flanked by his sister and uncle, at the Old Bailey yesterday. Photograph: Photofest

## 'Triad' boy locked up for killing pupil

Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

The teenage leader of a triad-styled gang was ordered to be locked up indefinitely yesterday for murdering a 14-year-old boy outside his school gates with a machete.

Nathan Brown's victim, Carl Rickard - known as CJ - died pleading for help and asking "What did I do?"

He was left crouched on all fours with blood pouring from his head at the school in south-east London after being hit three times with the 17-inch bladed weapon. He died two weeks later in hospital from extensive brain injuries. Brown, then 15, carried out the attack because of an alleged insult against his gang, the Golden Snakes, which modelled itself on the Chinese triads.

It also emerged that pupils at Kidbrooke School, Eltham, where the boy was killed in January are in fear of retribution from members of the killer's gang for testifying at the trial in the Old Bailey.

They were allowed to give their evidence behind screens during the case and keep their names secret after Judge Clive Tyler decided "there are real grounds for fear of the consequences if they are required to give their evidence in circumstances where their identity is revealed".

The judge had been told by Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, that "these are terrified children. Out of 22 witnesses

from the school, only one, an especially courageous girl, is prepared to reveal their identity - and two have left the country."

Patricia Jaffe, the head teacher at the school, said in more than 20 years in teaching, she had not seen the "kind of fear that I had to sit through when they gave their statements. Some were in shock, some were in tears - they really found it extremely hard".

The case reveals the worrying rise in number of attacks connected to teenage gangs.

Brown, now 16, wept and wrung his hands in dock after relatives of his victim cheered in court as the guilty verdict was announced.

Judge Tyler told Brown: "There is only one sentence - you will be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure."

Brown had admitted the manslaughter but denied murder. He claimed he had feigned the attack and had never meant him serious injury.

The dead boy's mother, Lyn Rickard, said afterwards: "I am just dead inside. I laugh and joke, but it is a dead laugh. I hate getting up every morning. CJ is on my brain 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Brown was described as a loner who was fixated with martial arts and computer fighting games. He joined that gang to escape the bullying and teasing he endured because he had no father at home.

He recruited his own followers and drew up rules in his diary for joining the Golden Snakes.

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Ringin' endorsement: Frank Field launching a campaign at Kensington, west London, to recruit bell-ringers for the millennium Photograph: John Lawrence

## Wanted: 5,000 to ring in the millennium

Clare Garner

A bell-ringing recruitment drive for the millennium aimed at enlisting 5,000 bell-ringers in time for 1 January 2000 was launched yesterday.

Frank Field, minister for welfare reform, joined ringers at St Mary Abbots Church in Kensington, west London, for a bell-ringing lesson to kick off the campaign. Many church bells are rung regularly, there are more than 1,000 churches in the UK which have no bell-ringers.

The initiative, entitled Celebration 2000, wants the millennium to be marked by the pealing of church bells in every church in the country at noon for five minutes on 1 January 2000 as part of a 15-minute service of prayer and dedication.

Celebration 2000, which aims to celebrate the religious and spiritual dimensions of the

### Airship's Kaiser bell fails to toll



This bell from the bridge of a downed First World War Zeppelin went on sale at an antiques auction yesterday, but failed to reach its reserve price.

The 8in high silver plated Kaiser bell was put up for auction by the grandson of George Bloy, the Grimsby scrap metal merchant awarded salvage rights to the wrecked airship which crashed in the Humber 80 years ago. Auctioneer Dickinson Day & Son, of Brigg, Humberside, had hoped the bell would fetch more than £1,000.

millennium, was set up by the Open Churches Trust and has the support of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

The Open Churches Trust was founded three years ago

by Lord Lloyd Webber to promote the opening of Grade I-listed churches which are locked between services due to burglary, arson and vandalism.

Leading article, page 15

## Unruly pubs are given last orders

Jason Bernetto  
Crime Correspondent

Unruly and violent pubs could be given penalty points and eventually closed down under a scheme being considered by the Home Office, it was announced yesterday.

News of the clampdown on drink-related violence came as the Home Secretary disclosed details of proposals for a law against criminals and night-mare neighbours who terrorise and harass communities.

Under plans for the new Community Safety Order, people who break restrictions and curfews imposed by the courts could be jailed for up to five years and given an unlimited fine.

The new order, which would also apply to children as young as 10, is aimed at threatening and violent neighbours, and those whose behaviour includes playing loud music, or placing graffiti.

As part of the Government's drive against drinking and disorder, Alan Michael, the Home Office minister, told the Howard League for Penal Reform's annual conference in Oxford that his department was examining ways of dealing with violent pub-goers.

"Several senior police officers have told me that drink-related violence is now one of their biggest problems," he said.

"We are considering a range of proposals. These include a penalty points scheme for pubs linked to violence, with an accumulated level of points possibly leading to loss of licence."

Chief constables and magistrates are planning to set up a pilot scheme to test the penalty points system.

Mr Michael added that a second proposal being considered was to ensure that magistrates were told about the number of arrests at or near pubs and clubs so that they could revoke licences for unruly venues. City-centre venues would also be forced to use toughened glass to reduce injuries.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, outlined proposals for the new Community Safety Order - due to be included in the Crime and Disorder Bill later this year. The Government is seeking views of interested parties.

Under the scheme, courts would be given powers to impose strict conditions on named individuals whose antisocial behaviour causes others distress or fear. Whole families could be named by the courts.

Restrictions could include a curfew or exclusion from an area. They would apply for a minimum of two years, but could last a lifetime.

Applications for the order would be made by the police and/or the local authority. Expert or "professional witnesses", including local authority staff, would testify in court, thereby removing the need for local residents to be identified and face the threat of intimidation.

Children as young as 10 could be made the subject of an order, but those aged between 10 and 15 could not be jailed. Instead, they would receive a punishment in the community.

### DAILY POEM

#### The Panther: Jardin des Plantes, Paris

By Rainer Maria Rilke  
(translated by Stephen Cohn)

The bars which pass and strike across his gaze have stunned his sight: the eyes have lost their hold. To him it seems there are a thousand bars, a thousand bars and nothing else. No World.

And pacing out that mean, constricted ground, so quiet, supple, powerful, his stride is like a ritual dance performed around the centre where his baffled will survives.

The silent slither of his eye sometimes slides open to admit some thing outside; an image runs through each expectant limb and penetrates his heart, and dies.

This week's Daily Poems come from Stephen Cohn's new translation of Rainer Maria Rilke's *New Poems*, which first appeared in German in 1907-08. *New Poems* is published by Carcanet (£9.95) in a bilingual edition, with an introduction by John Bayley.

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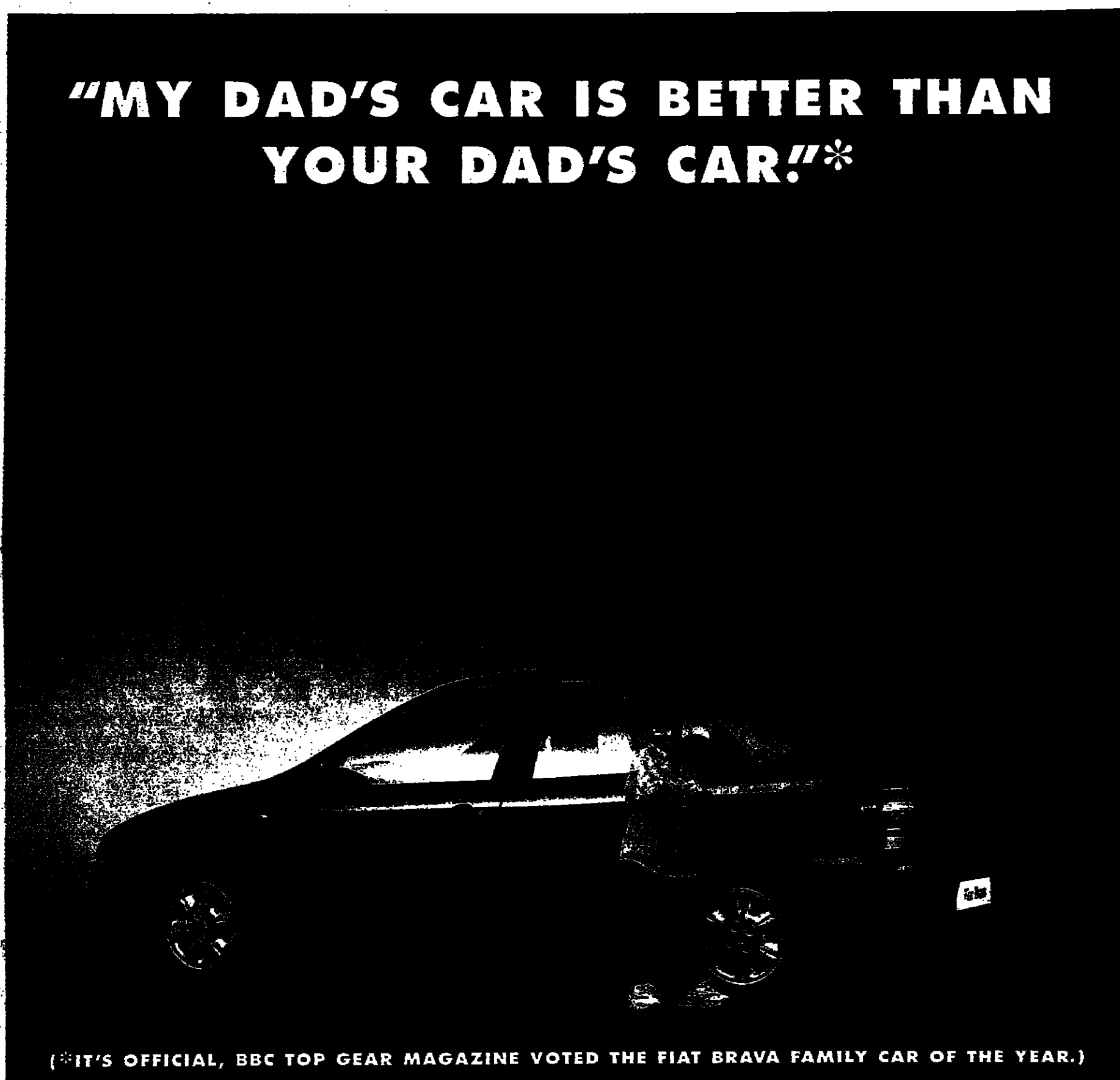
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(\*IT'S OFFICIAL, BBC TOP GEAR MAGAZINE VOTED THE FIAT BRAVA FAMILY CAR OF THE YEAR.)

Because you want your kids to enjoy the best of everything, you really must take a look at the Fiat Brava. After all, BBC Top Gear magazine rate it this year's best family car. That's partly because the Brava doesn't look like

a family car. (Put a cardboard box next to the photo above. See, no resemblance whatsoever.) And in this case appearances are not deceptive. The Brava is also stylish and carefully designed on the inside. Of course, careful design means safe design. The Brava ELX features a

driver's airbag, ABS and remote control central locking. And for convenience, electric door mirrors, windows and sun-roof. The thoughtful inclusion of a 6 speaker CD compatible radio-cassette means you can drown the sound of

noisy offspring with a tweak of the volume button. And because Top Gear won't be the only ones to covet the Fiat Brava ELX, the car is fitted with an alarm and a Fiat CODE immobiliser. It means that only you and your sprogs can

enjoy the refined 1.6 or sporty 1.8 engines. (Alternatively, you could plumb for the 1.9 turbo diesel if you want to save money fast.) 1997's Top Family Car can be yours from just £11,070, on the road. All Bravas are also available with Fiat's Flexible Easiplan\*, which offers a host of

unique ways to drive a new Fiat. So what family car will get your vote? The one that's better than your kid's friend's dad's car, of course. Call 0800 71 7000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information.

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# international

Stephen Vines reports on the Taiwanese underworld, while Richard Lloyd Parry (below) examines Japan's escalating gang war

## How men in white socks get away with murder

Taipei — Taiwan's gangsters are keeping their heads down. Having literally got away with murder in front of a seemingly powerless police force, they now face the wrath of public opinion demanding retribution. In recent months the gangs have gone too far. The kidnap and murder of 17-year old Pai Hsiao-yen, daughter of the well-known entertainer Pai Ping-ping, and the murders of two high-profile politicians, have highlighted a sense of public revulsion. More than anything else, this

led to the downfall of the last government and its replacement by a new administration, which is stressing its commitment to law and order while trying to get the public to focus its attention on economic matters. A cartoon in the Chinese language political weekly, *The Journalist* sums up popular cynicism about these developments. It shows an unkempt gangster, roaring with laughter, hanging out of a open window with a powerful rifle trained on the new prime minister, Vincent



Gun law: Armed Taiwanese police prepare to raid an apartment used by suspected gang killers. Photograph: Popperfoto/Reuters

Siew. On the wall behind are the scalps of the past two premiers. The joke is not intended to produce a belly laugh; it produces more of a sigh. Yet the mystique of the gangs and their seeming ability to operate beyond the law exerts a compelling attraction

over the young who, according to a slightly tongue-in-cheek report in the *China News*, are turning to gangster chic. The big-league crime bosses are indistinguishable from the men in suits who run Taiwan's big corporations — indeed, some

of them run big corporations themselves. But at street level, where the enforcers are carrying out their work, the gangsters have a distinctive appearance. It is sufficient to ensure that they, and their emulators, stand out from the crowd. Most

obvious is their predilection for chewing betel-nut, leaving their mouths smeared in vicious-looking red. Cigarette smoking, of course, mandatory. Below the neck the first tell-tale sign of gangster chic is a gleaming gold chain, the heav-

ier the better. The gold is displayed for maximum effect above an open-neck shirt worn loose and several sizes too big. Trousers also need to be baggy and come in two colours: black and green.

They are worn above white socks, presumably for easy night-time identification at floor level for the unfortunate victims who get in their way or end up prone on the ground while engaged in vigorous discussion about protection money. Fortunately for the victims, the thugs tend to

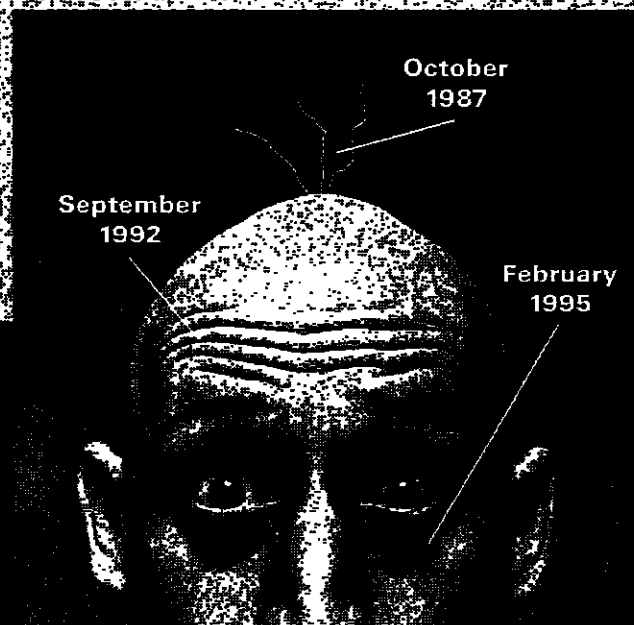
favour soft-soled trainers. Although gangster chic may be regarded as harmless fun, it is perhaps unsurprising in a society where Triad gangs have exerted an unusually profound influence on public life. Taiwan's ruling party, the Kuomintang, had strong ties to triad gangs, especially in Shanghai. The triad leaders from mainland China fled with their political allies to Taiwan after the triumph of the Communist revolution in 1949. Indeed, their influence is so blatant that the so-called "spiritual leader" of the notorious Heavenly Way gang, Lo Fu-chu, was appointed as chairman of the Judicial Affairs Committee, which supervises both police and judicial budgets. The government is excruciatingly embarrassed about gang activity and is making a great show of tracking down gang members. Television viewers were glued to their screens as they watched police surround and eventually shoot one of those accused of the Pai Hsiao-yen murder. While the anti-gang operations are blasting away, the gang bosses have ordered their men to make themselves scarce, but no one seriously believes that they will go away.

## Shootings trigger mob clampdown

Tokyo — Six hundred police raided gangster premises all over Japan yesterday in a show of force designed to calm fears of a violent mob war which appears to be escalating between the members of the country's yakuza crime syndicates. Eighty offices were raided, including the Kobe headquarters of the biggest yakuza syndicate, the Yamaguchi-gumi, whose second-in-command was murdered last month by rival gangsters. Since then there have been half a dozen shootings all over Japan, although no more casualties. At a meeting in Tokyo yesterday, the metropolitan police department decided to mobilise 2,000 officers to prevent further trouble. "We are concerned about the possibility of the struggle being prolonged," the deputy superintendent of the Tokyo police, Koji Takito, said. "It is a good opportunity to dissolve and demolish the Yamaguchi-gumi." The shootings began two weeks ago when four men in overalls appeared in Kobe's grandest hotel, the Oriental, and fired 10 pistol shots at a 61-year-old man who was drinking coffee in the lounge. The victim, who died in hospital of wounds to the head, was Masaru Takumi, second in command of the Yamaguchi-gumi. Even between gangsters, open gun battles in Japan are generally seen only in yakuza films, and the attack was made all the more shocking by the fact that an innocent bystander, a 69-year-old dentist, was also mor-

tally wounded. Mr Takumi, in any case, had a reputation for being something of a moderate among yakuza. He was known admiringly as "the economic gangster" for the role he played in restructuring the Yamaguchi-gumi's flabby finances after the collapse of the property market in the early 1990s. Until Mr Takumi's accession to the number two spot eight years ago under his patron, the Yamaguchi-gumi "godfather" Yoshioori Watanabe, the syndicate had been dogged by constant feuding. Its 18,600 members make up 40 per cent of yakuza, but they are spread across 110 gangs with varying degrees of loyalty to the central leadership. According to press accounts, based on police briefings, the present trouble is the consequence of a feud between Takumi and Taro Nakano, the head of the Nakano-kai subgroup, who was expelled from the Yamaguchi-gumi three days after the killing. However, police talk about "demolishing" the Yamaguchi-gumi should probably be treated sceptically for, in many ways, the cops and the mob complement one another very effectively. The yakuza have been tolerated for decades and even encouraged for their job in controlling and channelling the activities of small-time crooks. Perhaps that explains the scale of the police reaction to the latest violence: in harming innocent bystanders, the yakuza have broken the rules by allowing organised crime to become disorganised.

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# Republicans attack Britons' right to vote

Robert Milliken  
Sydney

Half a million British people in Australia have become the focus of a political storm in which republicans are taking court action to stop them voting in a forthcoming convention over the future of the monarchy.

The Britons are being challenged under Australia's Racial Discrimination Act by Lorenzo Poletto, an Italian immigrant, who claims they have privileged treatment over other im-

migrant nationalities because they are allowed to vote without being Australian citizens.

Mr Poletto's action before the High Court is being backed by Ausflag, a group of high-profile Australians who have been campaigning for years to have the Union flag removed from the corner of the Australian flag and have the Britons struck off Australia's electoral roll.

The British people at the centre of the dispute arrived in Australia after 1949, but have never taken citizenship. Until the electoral laws were changed in

UK immigrants may be barred from Australia's poll on monarchy

1984, it was legal for such Britons to vote in Australian elections, though it was illegal for immigrants from other backgrounds who had declined to take citizenship. The change in 1984 removed this anomaly, but it did not apply retrospectively to Britons who had emigrated under the old system.

Now Australia is preparing to hold a constitutional convention next year which will decide how a referendum could be held

on becoming a republic. Half the delegates to the convention will be elected by voters on Australia's electoral rolls. Mr Poletto insists it is wrong for Britons without citizenship to have a vote on the future of the monarchy in Australia when other immigrants who have not become citizens — such as himself — will have no such say.

Mr Poletto, a plumber who emigrated in 1960 and who is married to an Australian, says

he has never taken Australian citizenship precisely because of the links to the monarchy that required new citizens to pledge an oath of allegiance to the Queen. The former Labor government abolished the oath in 1994 and replaced it with a pledge of loyalty "to Australia and its people".

Nevertheless, Mr Poletto says he will take the case to court on behalf of all non-British immigrant groups who are excluded

from voting for the constitutional convention. "We don't live in a two-class system here," he said yesterday. "The day when Australia breaks its ties with the monarchy, I'll be the first to join up and become an Australian citizen."

Ausflag has sought legal advice, which suggests the action may succeed under anti-discrimination legislation, and the challenge has the support of the Australian Republican Move-

ment and various ethnic organisations.

The row comes as Australians have been assessing the impact of the Princess of Wales's death on the country's republican movement. An opinion poll taken three days after the Princess died showed 53 per cent of people supported a republic compared with 47 per cent in June last year. Those who supported a constitutional monarchy fell to 37 per cent from 42 per cent. Since the Princess's funeral, leading newspapers have suggested that her

disappearance from the scene has only highlighted the monarchy's old-fashioned image and Australia's need to move on.

The *Australian Financial Review*, a national business daily, said yesterday: "Struggling with its own demons, the House of Windsor cannot provide the symbolic direction or any serious point of reference for Australia. That is up to us. It is time Australia created its own symbols, reflecting its own culture, and stopped reaching into a past of nice memories but insufficient signposts to the future."



Getting high: Window cleaners working on the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre where the annual meeting of the World Bank/IMF will begin on Monday. Photograph: AP

## significant shorts

### UN refugee body quits Congo over repatriations

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, yesterday said she had suspended operations in Laurent Kabila's Democratic Republic of the Congo because of that country's recent forced repatriation of Rwandan Hutu refugees. "This kind of situation obliges us to suspend the operations," the high commissioner said. "We have no more people to protect." Reuters - New York

### Israel lists security demands

On the eve of an attempt by the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to rescue Middle East peace process, Israel raised the stakes yesterday with new security demands which it said the Palestinians must meet before they can get more West Bank land. Israel said the Palestinians must reduce the size of their police force, dismiss their police chief and agree to Israeli and US monitoring. Essay, page 16 AP - Jerusalem

### German author 'outs' Goethe

A new book on Germany's national poet and genius Johann Wolfgang von Goethe claims he was an undeclared active homosexual. The book, *The Tender Care of the Tiger*, looks set to send shock waves through Goethe academia. Its author Karl Hugo Pruys, 59, claims Goethe never felt love for a woman. "Goethe had only close and warm relationships with men, you see this in his letters. He was terrified of women," Pruys said. Reuters - Bonn

### Nurses clash with riot police

At least 10 people were hurt when hundreds of nurses fought a running battle with riot police in Dhaka's Post-Graduate Medicine and Research hospital. The fighting was triggered by the sacking of five nurses. Reuters - Dhaka

### Siberia's forgotten tribe

An anthropologist claims to have discovered a forgotten tribe of nomads in Russia's Siberian tundra. "These people have done the incredible. They succeeded in hiding from Lenin and Stalin, Gorbachev and Yeltsin," researcher Ivar Bjørklund said. He said the tribe of about 200 reindeer herders, part of an ethnic group he called the Nemter, are not found in any government registry. AP - Oslo

## De Klerk passes mantle to younger generation

Mary Braid  
Johannesburg

Marthinus van Schalkwyk, a baby-faced Afrikaner, yesterday replaced FW de Klerk, South Africa's last white president, as leader of a divided and weakened National Party.

His election, by a convincing majority, ensured that the NP leadership will remain in white Afrikaner hands, in spite of calls on the party to make good its promises to broaden its racial base by appointing a black or Coloured (mixed race) leader.

The election was another lost opportunity for the party which institutionalised racism to reinvent itself and have even the slightest chance of becoming a viable opposition to the ruling African National Congress. That radical action is needed is undeniable. Support for the NP has plummeted from 20 to 12 per cent since the country's first democratic elections in 1994. Mr de Klerk yesterday bade farewell to the Cape Town parliament to cheers from his own benches and a few ANC boos, before leading Mr van Schalkwyk, his chosen successor, by the hand to the front opposition benches. He said it was with confidence that he left his party, riddled with divisions in the long-running war between reformers and diehard conserva-



Young blood: FW de Klerk raising the hand of Marthinus van Schalkwyk, his successor as NP leader. Photograph: Reuters

tives, in the hands of a "dynamic young man". But according to many political commentators, Mr de Klerk was merely pausing to rearrange the deck chairs before jumping the once mighty but now sinking Nats ship. Mr de Klerk, 61, claimed at the end of last month that he was retiring to rid the party of the stench of apartheid. At 37, Mr van Schalkwyk, the youngest leader of the NP, was said to have the innocence of youth on his side. The former political scientist only entered parliament after Mr de Klerk's historic decision in 1990 to release Nel-

son Mandela and dismantle the apartheid system. But in the NP innocence can be lost rather early. A South African newspaper has revealed that while Mr van Schalkwyk was studying at Rand Afrikaans University he spied for the apartheid regime by running a front organisation for military intelligence called Jeugkrug (Youth Power). In the end, this revelation did not spoil his leadership chances. Mr van Schalkwyk said: "I am proud of what we did. Those were not normal circumstances." But the smell of apartheid lingers. His sins, of

course, pale into insignificance compared to the allegations being levelled at Mr de Klerk through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with exposing the truth about the apartheid years.

Despite winning the Nobel Peace prize after his political volte-face in 1990, Mr de Klerk's reputation has been badly damaged by revelations to the commission. Allegations already made about his knowledge of apartheid era violence, and others forecast to come, are also thought to have helped propel Mr de Klerk from politics.

Although Mr van Schalkwyk has been elected leader, Heros Kriel, the initial favourite to replace Mr de Klerk who in the end did not stand, will probably pull the strings. Mr Kriel, a staunch conservative, is premier of the Western Cape, the only province run by the NP owing to the support of Coloured voters. One prediction is that an unreconstructed NP will divide into no more than a regional power, holed up in the Western Cape.

Many on the NP's liberal wing have already defected to Roelf Meyer's new political party. The former NP general secretary left the party earlier this year after suggesting that it disband and re-form as a black-led, broad-based, multiracial movement.

## Boycott endangers Bosnia poll

Rupert Cornwell

Bosnia's municipal elections seemed close to unravelling yesterday, as the main Serb and Croat parties in the country announced they would boycott the poll, while only the intervention of Nato peacekeepers prevented a violent confrontation between rival factions of Bosnian Serbs.

The elections this weekend are a crucial part of the Dayton agreements which ended the three-year Bosnian war in November 1995. But yesterday, in apparently unco-ordinated steps, the Croat Democratic Union (HDZ), and the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) which

is loyal to the war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, declared they would not take part.

The moves came as tensions between the Bosnian Serbs reached new heights, following the thwarting of a planned mass rally on Monday by Karadzic supporters in the west Bosnian city of Banja Luka. If left unhindered, Nato officials said, the gathering could have turned into an attempted coup against Biljana Plavsic, President of the Bosnian Serb Republika Srpska and sworn foe of Mr Karadzic and his henchmen.

As it was, British and American troops prevented thousands of Karadzic supporters from entering Banja Luka. Yesterday they escorted some of those who did make it from a hotel in Banja Luka, to jeering chants of "Thieves. Thieves, from a furious, pro-Plavsic crowd. But Mr Karadzic's humiliation was not over. His key aide Momcilo Krajisnik was forced to flee the hotel in a car whose windows were smashed as he drove off.

As he did so, the SDS called from its headquarters in the Karadzic stronghold of Pale in eastern Bosnia for "all Bosnian Serbs" to go to Banja Luka "to liberate their leaders". The party also said it would boycott the elections. The vote was impossible, it said, "amid the total crisis of the Dayton peace accord".

Despite the explosive tensions, officials of the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe, which is supervising the voting, insisted the election would go ahead. They claimed the boycott threats were primarily tactical ploys to force OCSE to relax its strict regulations on voter registration, or provide an excuse if the poll results were unfavourable.

In the case of the Serbs moreover, there is the added fear that during the election, Nato forces will act to arrest if not Mr Karadzic, then other war crimes suspects named in alleged secret lists of indicted war criminals drawn up by the special UN tribunal in The Hague.

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## international

# Germany's jobless could reach five million this year

Inna Karacs  
Bonn

Germany's joyless recovery conjured up another post-war record in unemployment last month, raising the number of people out of work by 49,000 to a seasonally adjusted total of 4.46 million.

The figures, released yesterday by the Federal Labour Office, were much worse than expected, and fore-shadow a miserable winter dominated by lengthening dole queues. Bernhard Jagoda, president of the Labour Office, was unable to rule out the possibility of breaching five million later in the year.

Mr Jagoda drew solace yesterday from the encouraging trend in western Germany, where dole queues are now growing only slowly. "The trough should now have been reached in the western Länder," he said. "But in eastern Länder the decline in the number of jobs continued."

That the east should bear the brunt of the winds lashing Germany is not surprising. The building industry is in the doldrums; consumption by

the lucky few who have real jobs is stifled by companies tumbling like ninepins. With little to export, the industry of the east has been unable to reap the rewards of the low Deutschmark.

What has stunned observers is the failure of the west's export-led mini-boom to percolate through to the workers. "The most disappointing aspect of the rise in unemployment," said the analysts of UBS bank, "is that the recent surge has not led to job creation at all."

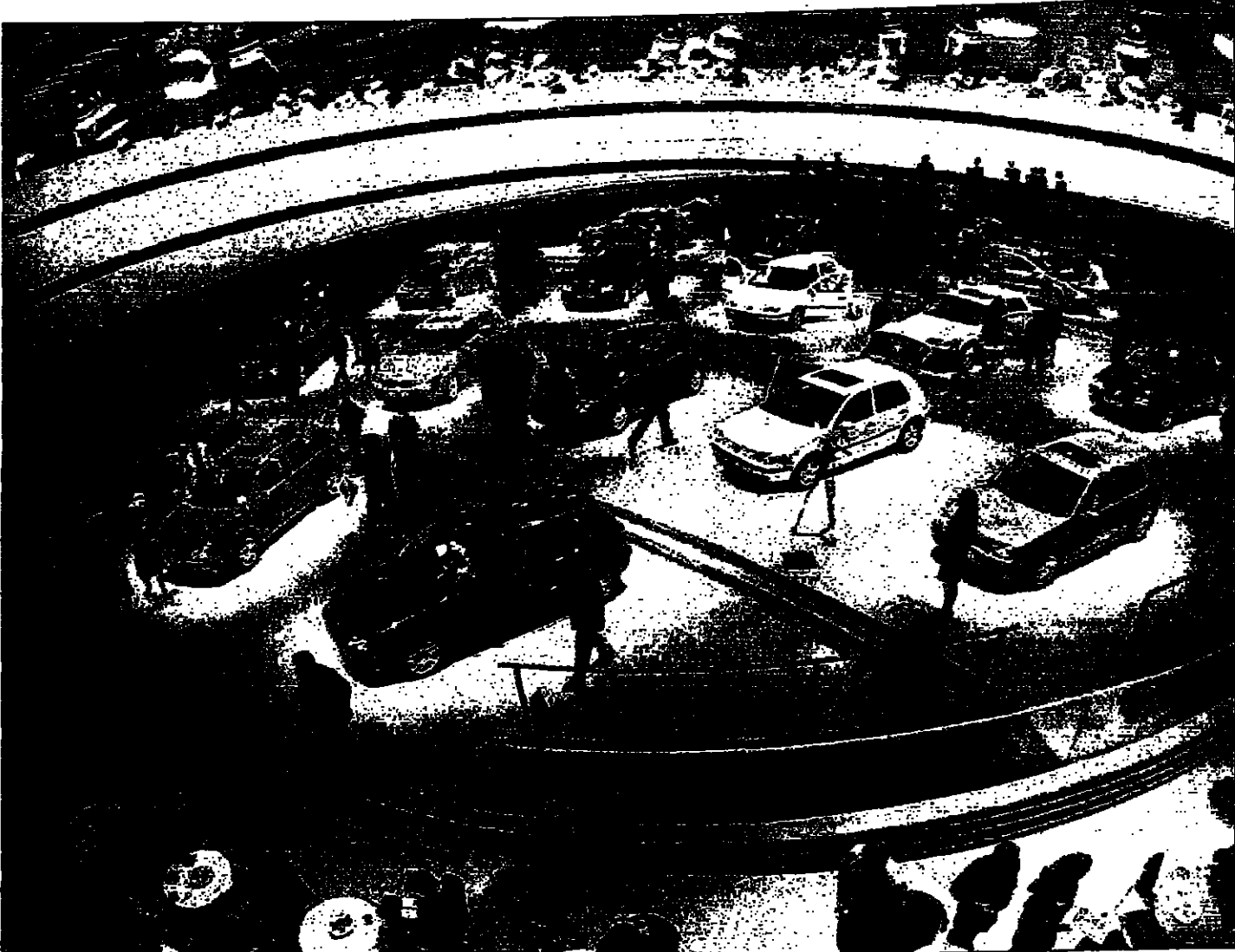
The factories of the west amassing record profits are obviously refusing to hire, opting to speed up production or keep their customers waiting. With the government's tax reforms stuck in the parliamentary gridlock, companies are not prepared to commit themselves to extra staff.

"Nothing is happening in the political world in terms of reform," said Hans Peter Söhl, president of the Federation of German Chambers of Commerce. As he spoke, the Bundestag was again submerged under mutual recriminations, with government and opposition blaming each

other for the impasse. After the debacle in the summer, when his tax proposals were shot down by the upper house, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, yesterday attempted a relaunch: "I call on all responsible politicians to take off their blinkers and find a compromise on the tax reform."

Mr Waigel wants to cut DM30bn out of German tax bills, easing the companies' wage burden. But the opposition, flexing its muscle ahead of national elections due in a year's time, is refusing to let him have his way.

The slump in the jobs market at the time of an economic upturn is putting strain on Germany's efforts to qualify for European monetary union. Higher than expected spending on the unemployed will jeopardise Germany's chances of meeting budget deficit goals laid down by the Maastricht Treaty. To balance the soaring cost of the dole, Mr Waigel must trim spending somewhere else, which will put someone else out of work. This is quite a task, and probably explains why he has spent the last month begging Chancellor Helmut Kohl to give him another - any other - job.



On track: New cars, such as these VWs at the Frankfurt motor show yesterday, are driving Germany's export-led recovery Photograph: AFP

## Party chief is expelled in China corruption scandal

Teresa Poole  
Peking

Peking city's former Communist Party boss has been expelled from the party and his case turned over for criminal prosecution in China's highest level corruption scandal.

The party's discipline unit said yesterday that Chen Xitong, 67, had embezzled valuable items, squandered public funds, abused his position to help relatives, supported a "corrupt and decadent life", and was largely responsible for the criminal activities of the city's vice-mayor, Wang Baosen, who shot himself in April 1995.

The Chen case has intrigued the Chinese public ever since he was removed from his job as Peking's unpopular party secretary immediately after the Wang Baosen suicide. An internal report accused Mr Chen of illegally amassing £15m of public funds and at least nine city apartments which were distributed to his mistress's family. Yesterday's announcement said Mr Chen had "completely discredited himself as a communist".

When the scandal broke in 1995, it soon became clear that the highest echelons of the Peking party and government structures were riddled with corruption and that many people must have been aware of this. The late Mr Wang was said to be at the centre of a £25m corruption inquiry. In a country where people last year were executed for petty crimes such as VAT receipt fraud and cattle rustling, failure by the authorities to take decisive action against Mr Chen for more than two years was seen as further proof that the anti-corruption crackdown was not tackling the big fish.

The timing of yesterday's announcement was linked to the Communist Party Congress which starts on Friday, a gathering which takes place only once every five years. The run-up to the congress is a time for Chi-



Clean-up: Polishing the doors of the Great Hall where Congress begins on Friday

na to clear the decks of political embarrassments. President Jiang Zemin, who needs this congress to put the seal on his supreme leadership status, will hope to improve his popularity by taking action against Mr Chen.

In surveys, Chinese people regularly put the country's endemic corruption top of their list of grievances. The 1995 toppling of Mr Chen, who had taken a high-profile role in Peking against the democracy movement of 1989, was applauded but cynicism soon took hold when no criminal proceedings were taken. Ordinary Chinese will now wait to see whether the case will ever actually come to court. Last month, Mr Chen's son, Chen Xiaotong, was jailed for 12 years for "economic crimes" and the sen-

tence was widely seen as an indirect way of punishing a father who still boasts the protection of high-level connections.

Popular disgust with corruption within the Communist Party is one of many challenges to its authority these days. People complain that they are powerless to fight back against corrupt officials. As a result, there are hints that this congress may see Mr Jiang making a cautious call for political reform to appease public opinion and introduce some accountability into party structures.

Liu Ji, a senior adviser to President Jiang Zemin, recently publicly called on the Communist Party to "advance reform of the political system". Mr Liu is vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and he would not have been quoted by the official China News Service without higher clearance.

At the beginning of this month, Mr Liu was quoted as saying: "When the people have enough food to eat and enough clothes to keep warm and as cultural standards increase, they will then want to express their opinions. The people wanting to take part in political thinking is a good thing, it is a sign of the prosperity and strength of the nation and is also a tide of the age that cannot be turned back." Political reform had lagged far behind economic change, he pointed out.

Such sentiments have not been expressed publicly by officials for almost a decade in China. The question is whether China is willing to restart the political reform debate which was under way until the Tiananmen massacre.

Party liberals may feel they can again call for more democracy and accountability within the party structures, pointing to the need to stamp out corruption and guide one-party rule towards a more secure future.

## Chechen executions spark outcry

Phil Reeves  
Moscow

Heads hanging, a man and a woman shuffle forward and are handcuffed to a wall. Before them is a firing squad of five men. Beyond is a crowd of onlookers who appear unmoved by what is about to occur.

The camera pans out. There is a burst of machine gun fire, and a puff of dust as bullets hammer into the wall. The two slump forward, and fall to the ground. The execution, by Chechen officials under Sharia law, is complete. Film of the

atrocities, which happened a week ago, has been broadcast on Russian television several times, causing a ripple of horror even in this violence-hardened society.

The killings are an attempt by the Chechen president, Aslan Maskhadov, to end an epidemic of kidnappings - including the abduction of two British aid workers - which has turned his republic into a no-go zone for outsiders. But the ensuing outcry has revived the question of Chechnya's status which, under a post-war deal, is not due to be resolved until 2001.

Moscow prosecutors say the executions could amount to murder under the Russian Criminal Code, and have launched an investigation. The Chechens, who claim to be independent, say Russian law holds no sway on their hard-won turf. Their vice president, Vakha Arsonov, has responded by threatening to prosecute Russia for genocide during the 1994-96 war, in which an estimated 80,000 died.

Another, more pressing, factor has also been in play: oil politics. The executions coincided with haggling between Moscow and Grozny over a pipeline to

carry the first wave of Azeri oil from the Caspian to the Black Sea. Creating bad publicity over the executions was an unstable attempt by Moscow to apply negotiating pressure.

Yesterday, there was agreement to mend a pipe across the republic, and send 200,000 tons of Caspian oil through it by the year's end. No one can be confident of how long the deal will hold. Today may bring an intriguing test of Russia's position. The Chechens plan to execute two more people. The question is: with the oil talks settled, will Moscow still care?

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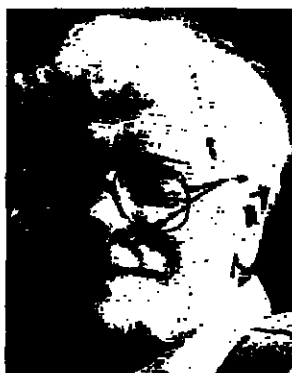
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## Edwin Brock



Brock: 'the bobby on the beat'

Some poets' anthology pieces are just representative, others are not. From their first appearance in the 1960s, two of Edwin Brock's poems have become constant anthology favourites, discussion material in many a classroom: "Five Ways to Kill a Man" and "Song of the Battery Hen". Laconic, chilling, colloquial, witty, these poems are good examples of Brock's intensely felt, simple, direct and memorable work. But before, alongside and after them are many other poems which deserve continuing currency.

Brock's first exposure to something like poetic fame arrived towards the end of his eight years as a constable in the London Metropolitan Police, in the late 1950s. Having been to his surprise interviewed by a *Daily Express* journalist, he opened a copy of the paper on a rush-hour tube (on the way to the Police Driving School in

Hendon), furtively expecting to find – perhaps – a two-inch news item. Instead, right across the top of one of the pages, "in the blackest type the editor could find", it said: "PC 258 CONFESSES I'M A POET", and below it, "THE THINGS HE THINKS UP AS HE POUNDS THE PECKHAM BEAT".

He realised with sudden horror that "a policeman-poet is as newsworthy as a dog-biting man", some time before P.D. James's poet-detective – who is, after all, fictional. Fortunately Brock's Metropolitan superiors were tolerant, indeed rather proud of him. The fact that he had, without permission, allowed himself to be interviewed – and photographed – was indignantly smiled at. He even appeared on television, "the bobby on the beat".

In fact Brock at the time had been writing poems for 10 years, beginning soon after he had

done his two years' national service in the Royal Navy, towards the end and just after the Second World War. In 1946, a bored 18-year-old in the Royal Naval Barracks in Hong Kong, waiting for demob the following year, he had read all the well-thumbed paperback available except one: a paperback anthology of modern poetry. It was a revelation. Coming from a turbulent and totally unlettered family in south London, he had managed to win a scholarship to a local grammar school; but School Certificate was as far as he got. Now, a few years later, something more enticing beckoned.

After demob, during a short and pointless period as a trade journalist, he wrote painfully but prolifically. Gradually he began to publish in the little magazines of the time – *Poetry Quarterly*, *Outposts* – and then, amazingly, he was accepted by the *Times Literary Supplement*. By

this time he had joined the police. Alan Pryce-Jones, the pacifist and plummy-voiced editor of the *TLS*, at first published his poems without knowing anything about him, but was astonished – and probably delighted – to discover that his protégé was a genuine proletarian. This was the moment of "the bobby on the beat". But Brock never allowed himself to be patronised, never cashed in on this rather absurd spurt of notoriety. From his first discovery of poetry, and of his own gift, he went on reading and exploring a great deal else, always with his own characteristic blend of vision, seriousness, native humour, and crisp common sense. They were qualities which infused not only his poetry but also his new-found employment as an advertising copywriter. In 1959, having left the police, he joined the firm of Mather and Crowther, and quickly established himself as

someone who – in that public-school, Oxbridge world of cut-throat cleverness – was cleverer than almost any of them at identifying the market, inventing the right words, piercing through layers of fancy bullshit, to sell the maximum of stuff to the maximum of people. In his continuing, and continuingly successful, advertising career for

the next 30 years, he was acknowledged both by his hard-nosed colleagues and by his "literary" friends to be supremely good at his job – though it was a job he frequently said he despised. It bored him, he said. It certainly frustrated him.

His real creative life, he knew, was his poetry. He published his first collection, *An Attempt at Exorcism*, with the small but prestigious Scorpion Press (early publisher of Peter Porter, Jenny Joseph, Christopher Logue *et al*), in 1959. He went on to publish another dozen or so books of poems, including his selection in *Penguin Modern Poets 8*, alongside Geoffrey Hill and Stevie Smith, in 1966. By that time he had also brought out his only novel, *The Little White God*, which drew on his police experience. Later, in 1977, he produced a striking memoir which mixed verse and prose, *Here, Now, Always*. He

was one of the few British poets of his generation to be noticed by the Americans: James Laughlin of *New Directions* was a consistent supporter, and published several of Brock's books in the United States.

I first met Brock in the early 1960s, when both he and I were on the periphery of the so-called "Group" – Edward Lucie-Smith's intense and at the time important poetry workshop (as it might now be called): we had close friends in it, but weren't joiners. He was going through the agony of a divorce, source of several earlier poems, but was soon to marry his second wife, Liz, who was his close and essential companion for 30 years. I took to him immediately: convivial, sometimes reckless, but always gentle, generous, tough, funny, entertaining, lovable.

In the 1970s he and Liz joined us as almost next-door neighbours in rural south Nor-

folk. When in 1988 he finally retired, very cheerfully, from advertising, I saw him develop other gifts – potter, painter, bonsai-grower – along with his poems. He revelled, quietly, in his enjoyment of all these. Whatever he did, he did well – even (as he might have said) bloody awful advertising. And some of his poems will certainly survive, beyond any vagaries of fashion.

Anthony Thwaite

Edwin Brock, poet: born London 19 October 1927; police constable, Metropolitan Police 1951-59; advertising copywriter, Mather and Crowther 1959-64; creative group head, S.H. Benson 1964-72; *Quilby Benson and Mather*, 1972-85; poetry editor, *Ambit* 1960-97; married 1959 Patricia Weller (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1964); 1964 Elizabeth Skilton (one daughter); died Low Tharston, Norfolk 7 September 1997.

## Derek Taylor

Derek Taylor, the Beatles' press officer, brought calm, authority and a sense of dignity to the chaos of the Sixties. As spokesman for the band during their heyday and later with their Apple organisation, he coped with the daily madness with a charm that disarmed the most frenzied Beatle hunter. Besieged each day by reporters, hippies, musicians and hangers-on, his muttered asides and gentle sarcasm contained a relentless barrage of inquiry.

Seated in his famous peacock chair and holding court at Apple's Savile Row headquarters, he dealt with such fraught situations as John Lennon's decision to return his OBE, John and Yoko's Bed-In and the ultimate break-up of the Beatles. Even in the most pressured situations he maintained a legendary politeness. When the American cartoonist Al Capp decided to launch an abusive attack on John and Yoko during a Bed Peace protest in Canada, it was Taylor who stepped in, moustache bristling, to contain the outburst. Much loved by the Beatles and particularly close to George Harrison, Derek Taylor retained the manners of an English gentleman, while embracing the hippie ideology of the flower power era.

He was far more than a publicist, he acted as a bridge between the often warring factions of artists, record companies and media and was loved for his pains. Sir Paul McCartney said of him: "He was a beautiful man."

The Liverpool-born Taylor began his career as a journalist and joined the *Hoylake and West Kirby Advertiser* at the age of 17. He later worked for the *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo* and then in 1952 joined the *Daily Express* as their northern theatre critic. In May 1963 he was sent to cover a Beatles show at the Manchester Odeon. His glowing review described them as "fresh, cheeky, sharp, young entertainers".

The Beatles' manager Brian Epstein was so pleased that in May 1964 he made Taylor his personal assistant and scriptwriter. Taylor ghost-wrote Epstein's autobiography *A Cellar Full of Noise* (1964) and went on tour with the Beatles in Australia and America. On the last

night of their 1964 US tour, Epstein and Taylor fell out in a row over a car. Taylor had taken Epstein's limousine, leaving the furious manager stranded at the Paramount Theatre. After a heated row, Taylor resigned. He was later offered a job with a Los Angeles radio station and he became a Hollywood celebrity in his own right. While his radio show didn't last long, he used the opportunity to set up his own publicity company and among his clients were the Byrds, the Beach Boys, the Grateful Dead and Captain Beefheart.

In 1967 he helped organise the Monterey Pop Festival together with Lou Adler and John Phillips. The British journalist Keith Altham recalls Taylor's attempts to deal with the huge influx of visitors demanding press passes. "He had a knock set up and there was a long line of people waiting for their passes. He was very tolerant and patient but he gave out so many passes the whole press area was jam-packed."

"He made an announcement from the stage: 'The day of the purple pass is over, please return to the kiosk.' He set there for hours trying to be civil to angry photographers, and then suddenly disappeared, leaving a note which said: 'I can no longer relate to your problem. D. Taylor.' He had real style. Les Perrin, who handled the Stones, was called the doyen of PRs, but Derek Taylor was the aristocrat."

After the death of Brian Epstein, Taylor returned to London in 1968 to help the Beatles set up Apple Corps, their altruistic organisation intended to develop new talent. As "head of communications" Taylor supported their aims for the next two years, but even his charm and wit were sorely tried. At the Montreal Bed-In when John and Yoko faced the press, and Al Capp began to insult the pair, Taylor snapped and told him to get out. At this point John Lennon reminded him that Capp was their guest, forcing Taylor to apologise.

He continued to work for the Beatles until they broke up in 1970 and then became a director of special projects and managing director at WEA records.



Taylor, left, with George Harrison working on a press release for Apple

Photograph: Camera Press

He moved back to California with his family to work for Warner Brothers International. Returning once more to England, he concentrated on writing. He helped with George Harrison's autobiography *I, Me, Mine* (1980) and also wrote his own books including *As Time Goes By* (1973) and *Fifty Years Adrift: In An Open Necked Shirt* (1984), a limited edition auto-

biography signed by himself and Harrison.

He also wrote *It Was Twenty Years Ago Today* (1987) on the 20th anniversary of the *Sergeant Pepper* album, by the band he always fondly called "The Fabs". In recent years he returned to Apple Corps to help launch the Beatles Anthology trilogy and also appeared in the Beatles television documentary. He was

working on a proposed book based on transcripts from the series, due to be published next year.

Chris Welch

Derek Taylor, publicist and author: born Liverpool 7 May 1922; married 1958 Joan Douglas (three sons, three daughters); died Sudbury, Suffolk 8 September 1997.

## Philippa Pullar

The publisher's blurb, written by Philippa Pullar, for her odd, autobiographical, disarmingly frank book *The Shortest Journey*, gives a very good flavour of the author in self-analysing mode:

Most of us live in a terrible muddle. Where are we going? What do we want? Apart from some vague theory of happiness, we have no idea. In terms of Western philosophy, Philippa Pullar seemed to be liberated. Her books were acknowledged. She lived a jet-set life, yet in order to communicate with her friends she had to anaesthetise herself with quantities of alcohol to such an extent that, among other shattering and riotous experiences, she found herself in bed with the conductor of the last bus home.

Like many blurbs this tells only part of the story, and that through a glass darkly, but it also contains the essence of Philippa Pullar. Her life was indeed full of riotous experiences, the majority of which she welcomed with open arms.

She came from an intensely conventional, indeed dull, background. Her mother had been surprised to give birth to a baby at the age of over 40. Her father, when Philippa was four, "was in the West Country carrying out duties suitable to his rank of major". There was a war on, but there was still a nanny, a butler and a cook. Childhood was one of *Children's Hour* and *Dick Barton*, of poached eggs and baked beans for tea, of air-raid warnings – and of animals, the inevitable pony, but also rabbits and cats.

Philippa was unamused by school, and her long-suffering teachers were unamused by her, especially when they discovered a lurid short story she was writing in the form of a long and passionate letter between herself as the male lover and her best friend at school. Her knowledge of the facts of life was unenriched. She had to go.

For the rest of her life, Philippa King led a racy, some would say messy, existence. She was far from suited to the formality of the debutante season (she came out in Coronation Year) and decided to become engaged, at least unofficially, to a rich landowner from Carmarthenshire, the latter admitted that she had fallen in love with his rolling Welsh acres. It was all far too romantic.

"Robin" died very suddenly of a combination of Bright's Disease, tuberculosis and leukaemia, and Philippa embarked on a period of very riotous living indeed, all night-clubs and whisky. But she became interested in what she called intellectual religion. And she got married, almost on a whim, to Robert Pullar.

Marriage was a failure. Her husband ran a chicken farm, and the stench of the droppings did not exactly add to the glamour of newly wedded bliss. She was pregnant, she felt on the verge of madness, she suffered from hallucinations. But she also discovered one of the great moving forces which would dominate the rest of her life: a passionate hatred of factory farming and an equally passionate belief in the sanctity of animal life. The result was her first published book, *Consuming Passions*, which appeared in 1970.

It was subtitled, somewhat misleadingly, "A History of English Food and Appetite". Certainly there was history there. But there were wildly funny jokes, and there was anger because of what she saw as unspeakable cruelty to animals. It became a best-seller. Ray Gosling wrote in the *Times*: *Consuming Passions* is amusing, exciting and original. It is a work of love and care and art. Never have I come across such crisp, exciting – such a very feminine history of taste...

Philippa Pullar has a fine appreciation of banana-skin humour and many anecdotes are side-splitting. *Consuming Passions* would remain Pullar's best book. She followed it with an entertaining biography of Frank Harris (1975), which received mixed reviews; a rather silly book about the despised Season; and a sort of autobiography called *The Shortest Journey* (1981).

Towards the end of her life she became increasingly obsessed with transcendental religion and alternative medicine, the two often intermingled – the Sufi tradition, in part, had an enormous influence. The strong personal relationships, in particular with the distinguished biographer Michael Holroyd, to whom she referred in *The Shortest Journey* as Horace, after Horace Walpole, gave way to more spiritual searches. She had brief crazes – an aborted ex-

position to Mount Ararat to find the resting place of Noah's Ark combined with a sighting of the swimming cats of Lake Van, a plan to take rich Americans to Egypt and introduce them to the simple side of life – but they were often passing fancies. Perhaps the faintest strain of her suburban upbringing lingered on to temper her wilder conceits.

Philippa Pullar had great warmth and the ability to charm people into sharing her often bizarre ideas – which might explain why she was so valued for her ability to counsel people in distress. She always produced the unexpected: whether it was a peculiar experiment in cookery (I remember a curious green tomato crumble which seemed to have mildly psychedelic after-effects), or a tele-



Pullar: riotous experiences

phone call inviting one to a new kind of séance, or a rather more insistent call demanding traveller's cheques as she was literally on the road to Heathrow. One sighed, one was often exasperated, but it all seemed typical of her attraction. Her beliefs were often uncomfortable, but they were – above all her interest in animals – strongly held and passionately fought for.

There is absolutely no doubt that she was a character, utterly unlike anyone else. The world will be a calmer but a less exuberant place without her.

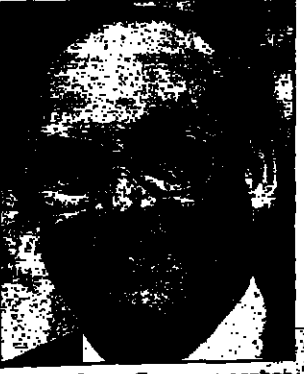
Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson

Philippa King, writer: born London 12 February 1935; married 1958 Robert Pullar (died 1996; two sons; marriage dissolved); died London 7 September 1997.

## Jimmy Dunnachie

In the last decade the House of Commons has become significantly short of those who have earned a living at the sharp end of manufacturing industry, either in management or on the factory floor – and in the poor as a legislator on that account. It was totally out of keeping with Jimmy Dunnachie's modest nature to boast about anything, but he was justifiably proud of his skills as a Firfields shipyard apprentice and later as a shopfloor fitter at Rolls-Royce, where he worked between 1952 and 1986.

Dunnachie was born in 1930 into a family which, like many other Glasgow people, was proud of its roots in the Scottish Highlands. After school at St Margaret's, Kinning Park, he went to Firfields when the Clyde was still in its great days. Because of the trust and dependability which he naturally



Dunnachie: no flowery speeches

inspired among fellow workers, in 1954 he became a shop steward. He was to remain a key member of the Rolls-Royce joint shop stewards committee as block convenor until 1986. The 1960s and 1970s were a period when the attitude of the joint shop stewards committee

was of vital importance to a plant employing over 6,000 workers.

Dunnachie is the only man who has been a member of the old Glasgow Corporation, Glasgow District Council, Strathclyde Regional Council, and the House of Commons. In 1972 he was elected to Glasgow Corporation, and earned the praise which Michael Martin, MP for Springburn, now Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, describes: "Jimmy Dunnachie had the reputation from the very beginning of never turning anyone away who needed help, and he continued to do this for 35 years."

Martin also recalls his work as a very new councillor as chairman of the Clearance and Rehabilitation committee of the Glasgow Corporation and later the Glasgow District Council. "He was extremely

good," says Martin, who worked with Willie Ross and other ministers, not only Labour ones, in the cause of the rehabilitation of thousands of Glasgow red sandstone tenements.

When he became a member of the new Strathclyde Regional Council, Dunnachie specialised in the social work committee to which Professor Fred Edwards, the distinguished director of social work, told me he had made a very useful contribution, under the chairmanship of Councillor Albert Long.

It was on account of his solid work on all three local councils that the Pollok constituency chose Dunnachie rather than a favoured militant candidate for the Labour candidature in 1985.

I remember well Dunnachie's maiden speech, which encapsulated the issues that he

really cared about. He told us on 26 June 1987:

Pollok faces many of the problems that have today been identified as part of inner city living. They are interwoven and have a domino effect on the lives of the people. Unemployment, bad housing, and inadequate social services characterise a constituency that contains no fewer than 12 districts that have been designated as areas of priority treatment.

Dunnachie's deepest concern was the despair that high unemployment produced, mirrored in what he saw as the intolerable housing conditions in that part of Glasgow:

Recent government cuts have meant that large areas in my constituency are on the verge of becoming undesirable slums, unfit for human habitation, with degrading squalor to the good people who have to live in them. I hope that the Government will review private sector housing grants so that my constituents who live in the Victorian tenements in the Shawlands and Pollokfields divisions of Pollok can carry out the repairs that are vi-

tally needed to bring the houses up to a more tolerable standard.

It was by incessant pressure rather than flowery speeches that Dunnachie was among those who have brought about a transformation of the City of Glasgow into an area which has won European prizes for rehabilitation.

In the House of Commons, Dunnachie joined the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers group. Ken Eastham, MP for Manchester Blackley, and secretary of the group during those years, describes Dunnachie as a "warm-hearted and generous colleague". That is how the rest of us found him.

He espoused a number of worthwhile causes, in particular that of the mentally handicapped. He wanted to protect vulnerable youngsters, and in March 1988 successfully introduced a "Gaming Machine

(Prohibition of use under 16)" measure as a Private Members' Bill. He also took up the cause of the Kashmiris, and on one famous occasion, by slip of the tongue, called on Margaret Thatcher as "titular head of the Commonwealth" to help persuade the Indian government to stop the killing of Kashmiris.

His later years were dogged by the incessant struggle against *Militant* in his own constituency, whose standard-bearer was the local folk hero, the anti-poll tax protester Tommy Sheridan. Indeed, in July 1988, the *Scotsman* went so far as to describe the atmosphere of his local constituency Labour party as resembling that of Beirut. Albeit that, in September 1991, *Militant* targeted the Pollok constituency as one of its four "national" targets. Dunnachie fought them off and won the

1992 general election by a large majority than many of the commentators had thought possible. This was in part because he was sustained by his wife, Isobel Payne, a senior lecturer in further education, whom he had married 20 years earlier in 1974.

Jimmy Dunnachie, by sheer constant hard work and concern for others, rendered unsung service to Scotland.

Tam Dalyell

James Francis Dunnachie, fitter, councillor, and politician: born Glasgow 17 November 1930; staff, Rolls-Royce, Hillingdon 1952-86; Councillor, City of Glasgow Corporation 1972-74; District Councillor, City of Glasgow 1974-77; Councillor, Strathclyde Regional Council 1978-87; MP (Labour) for Pollok 1987-97; opposition whip 1988-92; married 1974 Isobel Payne; died 7 September 1997.

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

**BIRTHS**  
CANDLISH: On 1 September in Northampton, to Sally, a son, Jade Lewis. A grandson to Lynda and Peter.

For GLASSBORO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, send telephone 01773 293 2011 or fax to 01773 293 2010.

## Forthcoming marriages

Dr J. C. L. Booth and Dr L. A. R. Field. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Sir Christopher Booth and of Dr L. A. R. Field, and Louise, daughter of Mr Michael Field, of Ripley, North Yorkshire, and of Mrs Angela Field, of Luton, Cumbria.

## Birthdays

Mr Thomas Allen, operative, 53; Mr Michael Bakki (Barry), tele-

vision food expert and radio executive, 56; Mrs Beryl Cook, painter, 71; Miss Louise Croll, former ambassador to Costa Rica, 62; Mr Brian Donohue MP, 49; Mr Ted Edgar, showjumper, 59; Barness Emerson, chief officer, Care in the Community, 58; John Ambulance, 62; Mr John Ennis, rock guitarist, 55; Mr Joe Goss, actor, 49; Mr David Hamilton, 58; Mr Peter Reynolds, former chairman, Ranko Hays McDonald, 66; Mr Denis Richards, art historian, 87; Dame Betty Ridley, former Third Church Estates Commissioner, 88; Mr Bill Rogers, golfer, 46; Sir Peter Singer, High Court judge, 53; Dr Brian Smith, chairman, BAA, 69; Sir

Frederick Moorfoot, former chairman, Kodak, 81; Mr Norman Morris, choreographer, 66; Lord Nolan, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 69; Mr Neville Owens, former Chief Constable, Lincolnshire Police Force, 59; Mr Arnold Palmer, golfer, 68; General Sir Antony Read, former Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 84; Sir Peter Reynolds, former chairman, Ranko Hays McDonald, 66; Mr Denis Richards, art historian, 87; Dame Betty Ridley, former Third Church Estates Commissioner, 88; Mr Bill Rogers, golfer, 46; Sir Peter Singer, High Court judge, 53; Dr Brian Smith, chairman, BAA, 69; Sir

Robert Smith, former chairman, Alliance and Second Alliance Trust, 70; Sir Rupert Speir, former MP, 87; Mr Robert Wise, film director and producer, 65; Miss Fay Wray, actress, 90.

## Anniversaries

Bartholomew Domenico Trepolo, painter and engraver, 1727; Sir John Soane, architect, 1753; Mungo Park, explorer of Africa, 1771; Cyril Vernon Connolly, author, journalist and critic, 1903; Deaths: Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, feminist, 1797; Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, traveller, politician and poet, 1922; Huey

Pierce Long, US senator from Louisiana, assassinated 1935; Baltazar Johannes Vorster, South African leader, 1983. On this day: the English defeated the Scots at the Battle of Fluke, 1547; Simon Bolivar became the director of Peru, 1823; the first London production of the opera *The Chocolate Soldier* (subsidised) was completed in Germany, 1921; the people of Gibraltar voted overwhelmingly to stay under British rule, 1967. Today is the Feast Day of St Ambrose Barlow, St Aubert of Arranches, St Florian of Moelle, Saints Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora, St Nemesian, St Nicholas of Tolentino, St Pulcheria, St Salvus or Saby of Albi and St Theodard of Maestricht.

## Receptions

Royal Overseas Seas League. Chief Elenka Anyaka, Commonwealth Secretary General, was the guest of honour and prize-giver at a reception held yesterday at Overseas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1, to mark the opening of the Royal Overseas Seas League Annual Open Exhibition for Young Commonwealth Artists.

## Lectures

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Seurat (2): Bathers at Asnières and Sunday Afternoon on the Grande Jatte, 1884", 1pm; Christopher R. O'Neill, "Seurat, Renoir and The Bathers", 6.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Richard Thomas, "Jean Dubuffet: seriously unwise conventions", 1pm.

## Changing of the Guard

The Royal Guard will be changed at the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, on Sunday, 10 August. The Guard will be changed by the Irish Guards.



## fashion

## Time to cast on a new British look

You probably hated those hand-knitted cardies you wore as a kid, but **Tamsin Blanchard** says your granny knew a thing or two about style. Photographs by **Sheridan Morley**

**T**he British are good at many things. We know how to write a song; we know how to cut a frock; we can spawn shockingly good artists; our architects are in demand the world over, and we can make a corking jam roly-poly and custard. But what the British are really, really good at is knitting.

Far from knitting and purling being dismissed as a traditional old granny craft, designers are increasingly taking up the challenge of making brighter, stronger and more modern knits.

British design team Clements Ribeiro have made their mark with stripy cashmere twinsets and jumpers that have scored points with shop buyers, customers, and their factory in Scotland. The designers know a good thing when they see one and they travel up to Hawick four times a year to the Barrie factory to oversee production of their knits. "When we started the cashmere market was a disgrace," says Suzanne Clements. "If it was cashmere, it was big, baggy and frumpy. We've seen the market changing quite rapidly. Cashmere is now seen as much more of a fashion thing while a cashmere T-shirt is a basic wardrobe staple." For cashmere production, Scotland really has the cachet over, say, Italy. It's something to do with the quality of the water used to wash the wool – it makes the yarn fluffier and bouncier.

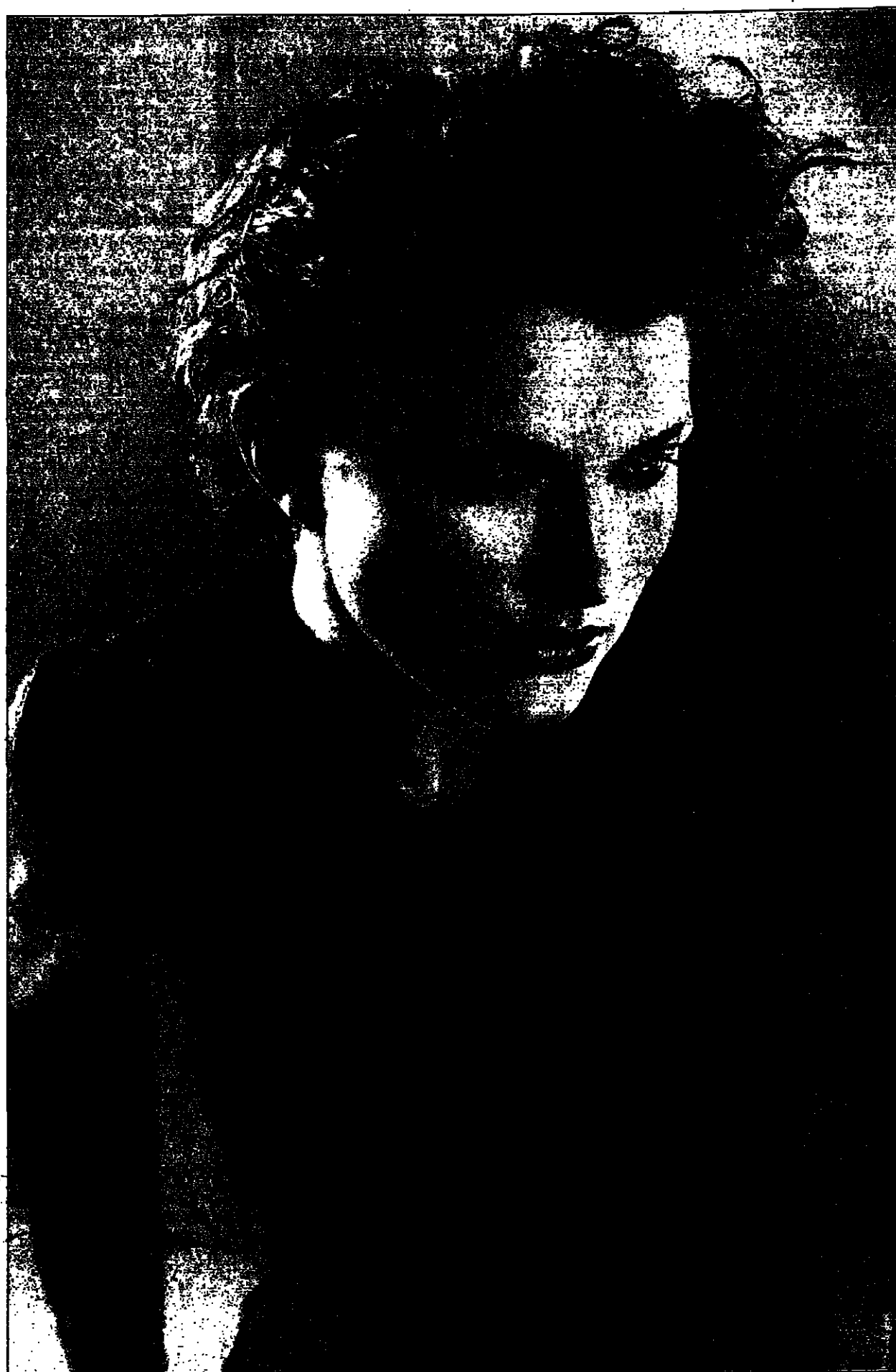
Clements Ribeiro aren't the first designers to see the potential of Barrie's quality knits. Chanel knitwear is produced there, too. While morale was low in Hawick at the beginning of the Nineties because the cashmere market was seen to be dying, young workers now take pride in pinning cuttings from *Vogue* of Clements Ribeiro's bright and refreshing stripes on their workplaces. The best morale booster of all has been the designers' Union Jack jumpers which, of course, have been a huge hit in America and Japan.

Another fan of the Scottish knitwear industry is Martin Kidman, the 38-year-old designer who spent nine years as design director at Joseph before starting his own label three years ago. "The collection is a very quiet thing," he says. "It's about being sweet and charming and not over the top in any way – an English version of Agnès b or APC." Kidman now has quite a following of women who love his style and tailoring, but who cannot get enough of his utterly charming knitwear. His knits are low key and classic, simple jumpers in muted shades of grey or pale lemon with an unexpected piece of detail like an inside out seam, or a scarf with pockets at each end. Kidman specialised in knitwear during his degree at Brighton, then went on to study for an MA at St Martin's in London. He left in 1985 when British designers were in demand the first time round.

Knitwear is having a fashion moment right now – it somehow seems more appropriate than structured tailoring. Kidman is keen on the whole knitted outfit look – jersey trousers or knitted skirt, with a prim jumper – as championed by Sonia Rykiel in the Seventies. And for those who can't afford over £100 for a jumper, you need not be deprived of a little Martin Kidman magic: he consults for Jigsaw and you will notice top-to-toe knitwear in their range over the next few seasons.

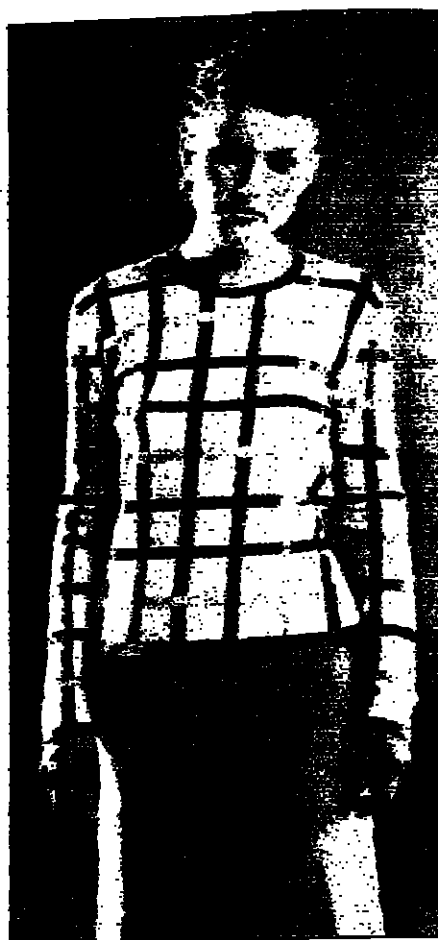
Edina Ronay is a designer who has made traditional knitwear off and on since the Seventies. Her collection for this autumn/winter has gone full circle, to the days when Ms Ronay ran her business from a market stall, to include sweet, hand-knitted Fair Isle sweaters with a Thirties look. Her pieces, shown to press and buyers from the comfort of her own Chelsea home, are hand-knitted and have the charm and nostalgia of home-made knits that might have been made specially for you by a thoughtful relative. "I've always kept a huge following for handknits," says Ms Ronay whose knits are so popular she is working on developing a diffusion line to be made by machine. "Handknitting is a dying craft: knitters are an ageing community; in fact they should be a much more expensive and rare commodity than they are."

And if all of this still seems to be a little too tame for your taste, take a look at the collection by Fake London. Desiree Mejer, the label's designer, has been in business since 1993. Mejer's great idea is to patchwork together the best parts of worn-out old cashmere sweaters. The collection ranges from harlequin patchwork sweater dresses like the one pictured here, to jumpers bearing patchwork Union Jacks in bright or muted shades: what better way to fly the flag for British knitwear?



Left: Fine 3-ply Merino wool rust sweater, £215, by Edina Ronay, from a selection at Mimi, 309 Kings Road, London SW3 and Sam Brown, Fulham Road SW10. Inquiries 0181 789 8557.

Right: Cashmere sweaters, £238, and camel skirt, £233, both by Clements Ribeiro at Hervia, Royal Exchange, Manchester; Liberty, Regent Street, W1 and Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Inquiries 0171 409 7719.



Above: Yellow sweater, £115; long scarf, £75; grey light wool trousers, £145, all by Martin Kidman, Tokio, 309, Brompton Road, London, SW3; Liberty, as before; grey satin embroidered shoes, £155, by Patrick Cox, 8 Symons Street, SW3. Inquiries 0171 730 6504.

Left: Harlequin dress, £750, by Fake, from Browns, 24 South Molton Street, London W1. Inquiries 0171 491 7833.

Stylist: Charlie Harrington Hair and Make up: Helen Bannon for Bannons Hair and Beauty Model: Michelle Gontier

Author's Note

Candace Bahouth's *Unicorn* from Ehrman Tapestry



The Unicorn is one of the many wonderful designs featured in Candace Bahouth's book *Medieval Needlepoint*. Surrounded by a richly patterned border of burgundy and gold the Unicorn is worked in shades of ivory and beige with a jewel-encrusted gold collar. He sits on a carpet of forest and jade green leaves which is dotted with periwinkle and china blue flowers.

Measuring 17" x 15" the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. 100% pure new wool from the Appleton range is used and the pattern can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit costs £25 including postage and packing, and comes complete with wool, canvas, needle and instruction leaflet. When ordering use FREEPOST – no stamp is needed.

FOR QUERIES ABOUT DESPATCH TELEPHONE 0181-573 4866. Ehrman Knit Ltd, 14-16 Lipson Square, London W3 4EP. Registered no. 1975935. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if kit returned unused within 14 days.

To: EHRMAN, FREEPOST, LONDON W8 4BR

Please send me.....tapestry kits at £25 each

I enclose cheque/P.O. made out to EHRMAN for £.....(total)

Name.....

Address.....

1297

## Designer fashion worth fighting for



Roger Walker Dack has been running an exclusive fashion club for 10 years. It has 15,000 members of all ages, sexes and fashion persuasions and has never advertised. His events take place in a King's Cross warehouse, last three days and make in excess of £100,000 a time.

Sounds seedy? It isn't. This is a fashion insider's secret, every fashion fan's dream. A huge warehouse full of designer confections from Katharine Hamnett dresses to Comme des Garçons shirts (among dozens of other names) all at up to a quarter of their retail price.

Walker Dack runs the Designer Warehouse Sales, or DWS; he also founded Fashion Acts, an HIV and Aids charity. Walker Dack began selling fashion at knock-down prices in 1987, when, as a former buyer for The Burton Group, combined with chairing the English Menswear Designer Collections (EMDC) he saw a way for young designers to turn their sample collections back into cash. A sample collection can cost up to £20,000 to produce and for any self-funded designer, this is a lot of money. The clothes cease to serve their purpose as soon as the collection is bought by the stores, and selling them is a quick way of making returns. Before you spend your entire winter clothing budget, put some money aside for the sales that begin at the end of the month.

"I never deal with manufacturers or retail outlets," says Dack, who also designs his own menswear collection, "just designers. I also help designers who have been let down by shops, and occasionally take the stock of a designer who

has gone out of business." It's a tough world out there for small fashion businesses, and Dack, it seems, is their saviour. "We usually

have the sales around the time of Fashion Week, so the money they spend on London Fashion Week can be recouped.

The sales are split into three; one for women, one for men, and a fabric sale. Each attracts its own crowd. The women's sales are the most diverse, attracting fashion fans of all denominations eager to pick up a specific bargain, and women who find shopping in department stores alienating. Be prepared though, the changing room is makeshift and communal. Punters can hunt through rail upon rail of clothes, shoes and accessories for that elusive must-have item, and fight for it if necessary. "We've had loads of dramas around that hold rail," Walker Dack says with a low chuckle.

The clientele is not restricted to those on a budget. The mailing list includes Lords, Ladies and Baronesses, who Walker Dack can identify when they attend his sales (he is always around to help when they get crowded, but when the going gets tough he goes for a cup of coffee), but he doesn't recognise the models and footballers about whom his staff try to keep him informed.

The fabric sales are entirely different. Coachloads of fashion students and ladies-who-lunch vie for specialist fabrics exclusive to the sales, which cost from only 50 pence a metre.

The Designer Warehouse Sales, The Works, 45 Balfe Street, London N1. Womenswear: 26-28 September; Menswear: 3-5 October; Fabric: 16-18 October. Prices start at £30 for a jacket, £30 for a dress, £20 for a shirt, £75 for a man's suit and £25 for a woman's top. For further information call 0171-704 1064.

Melanie Rickey



# Yes, we need unions, but unions need to change

Given the welter of industrial, political and organisational change in recent years, how odd it is that the TUC should still be gathering at the seaside in September, let alone parading Prime Minister and Prime Minister as its principal speakers.

That individual trade unions survived the locust years is less surprising, however depleted their membership. The need of employees in certain jobs to organise for protection or to bargain for a fairer share of the proceeds of their labour has not disappeared – the capitalist system is not so benign. Market forces have triumphed, intellectually. We all now have to recognise that without enterprise and profit, the engine of production will simply not produce jobs and income. But what function does the TUC fulfil nowadays? Never again to be the squat estate of the realm it became in the corporatist Seventies, the TUC is both more than a talking shop and less than a necessary rendezvous for governments. So why then was Tony Blair speaking to the brothers yesterday – surely his absence from Brighton would have been far more eloquent about the stated intentions of Labour both to emancipate itself from the embrace of this interest group and to govern with business and growth as central foci?

The Prime Minister did need to visit. He has a two-part message which needs to get through with some urgency. The gist of it is that those

unions affiliated to the Labour Party and the TUC together have a considerable distance yet to travel before the relationship of state, employee organisations and principal party of the left is in equilibrium.

Yet Mr Blair appeared to come bearing gifts. He promised legislation that would force employers to recognise unions, provided certain thresholds of numbers desiring representation had been passed and ballots properly conducted. In an ideal world, of course, such use of state power would be otiose. A good employer would not need to be cajoled into accepting that staff have collective interests – perhaps an even better employer would never even see their staff reaching for the protection of trades unionism. A good employer might welcome a union as a means of articulating staff needs and providing an additional communications channel. But not all employers reach the gold standard. For Labour to recognise employees' rights to representation need not be interpreted as some aping of continental European practice or payback time for the unions which supported it financially and practically on 1 May: it is justified as a way of securing greater fairness in employment and probably also enhancing productivity and output.

New law on statutory recognition opens the door to employees with a grievance and unions with energy and

reputation to find one another out. Yet it must not become a pretext for disruption or provocative claims by unions which can attract only a minority of a work-force. Yesterday's clamour by the Manufacturing, Science and Technology Union must not be indicative. The MSF, having the Archbishop of Canterbury in its midst, made a song and dance about the Church of England refusing to recognise its claim to speak for priests even though only a small fraction of clergy has joined. What is objectionable here is not just the arrogance of unrepresentativeness but the face of unionism which seems unconcerned about total employment,

future prospects or that flexibility which is a necessary ingredient in future employment, whether in the public, private or voluntary sector.

Economic growth has to mean economic change, jobs lost here, jobs gained there. The state has a role in easing such passages, providing for retraining, assisting mobility. Trade unionism, too, has to reconstruct itself with the grain of the modern economy. A bad employer is, especially in the present political climate, deeply vulnerable to market pressures, which a trade union movement decked in moral credentials could apply with vigour. John Monks, the TUC's able public face, seems to be

moving in this direction, towards reconfiguring unions for the pattern of work available – and it is noteworthy how economic recovery has gainsaid all those who predicted permanent mass joblessness. This is the time for unions to show their mettle – not just by accepting that there does now appear to be a formula for low inflation and jobs but by working on what kind of practical services members need, from credit cards to redundancy counselling. This new world is one in which secondary picketing and associated abuses of collective power have no place.

The second part of Mr Blair's message was about unions and his party. The Labour Party which won in May, the party he personifies, the party that has middle England's interests at heart, cannot also be the party of one sectional interest, whatever the weight of history. He would be ungracious if he did not recognise that union muscle and money have helped him modernise and played a role in electoral success. But gratitude must not stop the process of remodelling the relationship of unions and the Labour Party. One analogue is that of the AFL-CIO in the United States. A glance at, say, Germany, shows leaders of the Social Democrats keenly aware that they will need to put yet more distance between their party and the unions if they are to win next year.

We can, thanks to Labour's victory, abandon for good and all the false his-

toricism audible during the Tory era which tried to say that trades unionism was dead and buried. Conflicts between those who create employment and those who take jobs are ineluctable. They can be ameliorated and better regulated but the idea that employees will cease to need the support of colleagues in collective organisations is wrong, however the pattern of employment continues to alter. In that future unions will need to be ever more professional, sharp, practical, less and less "political", trying to capture the powers of the state to right the battles of the shop floor.

## For whom the bells toll

Campanologists of Britain – your country needs you. Come midnight on December 31st 1999, there is going to be a shortage of rope pullers to ring in the millennium. The problem isn't the bells. There is a huge excess of churches with bellies over regular ringers. At least 5,000 people are needed if millennium midnight is to chime at appropriate volume for the planned five minutes. Denomination is no objection – this will necessarily be an ecumenical sound. But practice is a prerequisite. Church bells badly rung make an awful din. It would be a shame to begin the next thousand years in cacophony.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Scotland must take its place in Europe

Sir: Scotland is a European country with approximately the same number of people as Denmark. Like all other countries of the European Union, it has its own legal, educational and religious systems. In Edinburgh is located a civil service which is (as Sir Edward Heath likes to remind his party's europhobes who rant about "Brussels bureaucrats") larger than that which runs the whole of the EU. But Scotland has no parliament.

This idiotic state of affairs is symptomatic of the outmoded and destructive parochialism which is endemic on this island. To survive in the modern era we must all increasingly see ourselves in a European context – especially in Scotland where 55 per cent of all manufactured exports are sent to the EU, accounting for 60,000 directly dependent jobs. A further 83,000 jobs in Scotland are in overseas-owned manufacturing which depends on access to the EU market, and it is estimated that over 20,000 Scottish jobs are already dependent on tourism from the EU.

If there are any Scots still nervous about accepting greater responsibility for their own fate in Thursday's referendum they should take heart from the economic success of their fellow Celts in the Republic of Ireland. More remote and with none of Scotland's powerful assets (North Sea oil, hydro-electricity, Scotch whisky) the Irish in recent times have outperformed the UK economy in GDP per capita. A Scotland which rules itself can do at least as well. JOE TAYLOR  
Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: I would ask the Scots and Welsh to consider the profound implications of a "Yes" vote. Political and economic tensions will inevitably build up between the components of the UK. These will result in a highly unstable relationship, which will be damaging to all of us. If change is desirable, let us do it by modifying existing political entities and include the whole country in such a review. Perhaps we should give more strength to existing local authorities, or extend the proposals for London to other major cities. There will be no winners in devolution as proposed. JOHN WARD  
Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk

Sir: Polls in Scotland indicate the possibility of majorities voting Yes to a parliament but No to tax-varying powers. This would require only a small minority actually to vote Yes-No, leaving a majority of voters whose first preference is something other than a tax-impotent parliament.

Of course, they would be divided over what this is. However, not only the No-No voters but also any number of the Yes-Yes voters might rather have no parliament at all than one which is tax-impotent. JOHN BONE  
Department of Economics  
University of York

### Fair car tax

Sir: You state in your table of prices for 1947 and 1997 (29 August) that road tax was £1. It was £1 per horsepower. I had a 10-horsepower car and it used to cost me £10 per year. It was a very fair system. D BOALCH  
Lyme Regis, Dorset



### The monarchy after Diana

Sir: A. Allen (letter, 9 September), in saying "However flawed they may be, at least politicians can be voted in and out of office" has obviously forgotten that Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933 through the legitimate democratic process. It took a world war to remove him.

As Winston Churchill wrote in April 1945, "This was would never have come unless under American and modernising pressure, we had driven the Habsburgs out of Austria and Hungary and the Hohenzollerns out of Germany. By making these vacuum we gave the opening for the Hitlerite monster to crawl out of its sewer on to the vacant throne."

Let us never make the mistake of creating a vacant throne here. We tried it once but the experiment proved disastrous and was brought to an end peacefully after 10 years. Next time (if, God forbid, there is one) we might not be so lucky. DONALD FOREMAN  
Secretary  
The Constitutional Monarchy Association  
London E4

Sir: Your correspondent (letter, 9 September) who fears that by becoming a republic we would condemn ourselves to a presidency held by a perpetual succession of superannuated politicians – at the moment presumably a choice between Heath, Kinnoch, Thatcher and Major – is an optimist.

The alternative nightmare scenario looks not to the European model but to the American, where the essentials for election to the

presidency appear to be ruthless ambition, access to vast wealth, reckless promises of patronage and preferment, effective control of a big slice of the media, and a plausible TV manner.

We don't know when we will be off. GORDON MEDCALF  
Whitchurch, Hampshire

Sir: Perhaps the people are indeed tiring of an old Windsor-style monarchy, but whether the institution itself survives may well depend on the continuance of the "Diana effect". Prince William may grow up to become the "people's Prince", and why, the people may say, should "Diana's boy" be deprived of the chance of a crown? JENNIFER BASSETT  
Exminster, Devon

### Monuments fit for a princess

Sir: At the tail-end of last year, you reported that Prince Charles was supporting a bid for lottery funding to build a huge church as the centrepiece to a "Christian village" on a derelict 10-acre site in Battersea. When you published a letter from me suggesting that the money would be better spent building a wonderful modern hostel and de-tox centre on the site, my office was inundated with letters and phone calls from charities, local councils and individuals eager to offer whatever help they could. But at the time,

there seemed little hope of turning the idea into reality.

Prince Charles could use his considerable influence to make a project of this scale happen. It could be a fitting and lasting memorial to the Princess of Wales, expressing hope in the future and determination to build a more caring and equal society.

It should be beautifully designed, cheerful, colourful and optimistic. In tackling the problems of homelessness and drug abuse, it would address many of the causes for which Princess Diana was rightly acclaimed. And it would, I believe, strike a special chord with young people and those usually marginalised by society, the core of the Princess's constituency. Sir TERENCE CONRAN  
London SE1

Sir: Think about Heathrow: what does it mean to you? To most people it means delays, pollution, noise and rows about a fifth terminal. Will naming it after Diana change any of that? Or will it rather, over the years, associate her name with the delays, pollution, noise, etc. Not a memorial I'd like, thank you.

Much more appropriate to found or rename a children's hospital for her. G DE CESARE  
Reading, Berkshire

Sir: One way of both modernising Britain's image in line with the Demos report and providing a permanent memorial to the Princess of Wales would be to

adopt "I Vow to Thee My Country" as the national anthem.

This would substitute a moving piece of music by a British composer for the current dreary dirge, and would act as a sign that the people of Britain have grown from being servile subjects into a confident nation of citizens. TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE  
Bath

Sir: An appropriate memorial for Diana, Princess of Wales, must be a second flagpole for Buckingham Palace, which will fly the Union Flag, indicating to the public, and reminding our sovereign, that the country is as important as its crowned head, and how the country feels is as important as whether the Queen is in residence or not. LYNNE RUSSELL  
Chester

Sir: Althorp may be her resting place, but London should not be without a memorial to Princess Diana. What location could be more suitable than Kensington Palace, scene of such massive popular tributes in the past week? Dr GRAHAM SHIPLEY  
Leicester

### Sinister power

Sir: In what fundamental way does the new "people power" differ from old-fashioned mob rule? I thought we lived in a parliamentary democracy. PETER EVERALL  
Rugeley, Staffordshire

### Can press resist temptation?

Sir: Your promise not to carry photographs of Princes William and Harry in private situations (front-page editorial, 8 September) is admirable but probably unworkable.

The fact is that the princes are news, and our interest in them will grow, especially if, as expected, Prince William becomes our next king. Your proclamation is made at a time of great emotion, but once that has abated you, like the other newspapers, will have to serve the interests of your readers first, rather than the interests of the Royal Family. DAVID JAMES  
Wylham, Oxfordshire

Sir: On Sunday last week, photographs of the dying Princess of Wales were, rightly, regarded as reprehensible. No decent newspaper or TV channel would touch them. Why then on Friday were photographs of dying shoppers from the bombs in Jerusalem so prominent in the media? MARTIN LYNN  
Belfast

Sir: You announce that you will print photographs of royalty only on state occasions or after palace-sanctioned photo-calls. Oddly enough that is the way things used to be in the stuffy buttoned-up days before Diana. Could the Palace have been right after all? ROSALINDA JONES  
York

### Gloomy garden of England

Sir: Once more we are threatened with a disastrous failure in the apple crop. In the early 1950s my family lived for a few years in Kent, the self-styled garden of England. Every year we were there, my father observed, the pages of the Kent Messenger recounted the same saga of disaster, like some Greek myth of regeneration gone wrong.

In March, untimely winds would rip the young buds from the trees. In April, unseasonal rain would dash the abundant delicate blossom to the ground before it had set. In May, exceptional frost would shrivel up the young fruit which had promised a bumper crop. By the end of June, as a result of the worst drought in living memory the fruit had failed to swell beyond the size of cherries (by then the cherry crop had been a disaster too). In July lack of sun was preventing the fruit from ripening. By early September, the trees were groaning with the weight of fruit, and the price had dropped to the point where it was not worth the cost of picking the fruit.

Notwithstanding the EU, some things don't change. ALAN KENNEDY  
London SW12

### M15 guards its ancient secrets

Sir: Marika Staarwood (letter, 1 September) should not be so surprised that M15 will not let her see their historical files.

In 1967 blanket approval was given for all M15 records (right back to 1909) to be withheld from the Public Record Office. This approval was renewed in 1992 and endorsed by the 1993 White Paper on Open Government, which referred to the need to protect the details of "methods of operations" and the identities of intelligence personnel.

As Ms Staarwood says, in America it is possible to see such material, albeit in a "sanitised" state. It is also possible there to see documents sent by M15 to the American authorities, although in Britain the same papers remain closed.

Now we are promised a Freedom of Information Act here; and there are rumours of some kind of release of M15 files. Historians must shout loud for an end to the idiosyncrasy of keeping 88-year-old files secret in order to safeguard details of operations against the Kaiser and the identities of spooks who died before most of us were even born.

DAVID TURNER  
History Department  
Christ Church College  
Canterbury, Kent

### British enigma

Sir: The Demos report on Britain's image abroad (report, 8 September) confirms the cherished British belief that foreigners are a rum lot.

They think we are economically backward, uncompetitive and strike-ridden but direct more of their overseas investments here than anywhere but the US. They believe that the weather is awful, the food worse and the people unfriendly but visit us in large numbers. They find us old-fashioned, out of date and hidebound but admire our creativity. A rum lot indeed. G P KNIGHT  
London SW14



## analysis



Can Madeline Albright (above), who is visiting Israel today, do anything to heal the political wounds that follow from bombings such as that in Jerusalem (right) last Thursday? Photographs: Reuters

Benjamin Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat have so far delivered only a 'war process' to the peoples of Israel and Palestine, says Patrick Cockburn. Can Madeline Albright return the combatants to their 'common destiny in peace-making'?



# Come, let us reason together

Israeli air force planes regularly fly low over Jerusalem creating a sonic boom which makes people glance up nervously. The way to tell this sound from that of an exploding bomb is to listen for the distant but distinct roar of aircraft engines after the initial bang.

In mid-afternoon last Thursday there was the sound of a boom in central Jerusalem. People waited in vain to hear the hum of aircraft engines, but it never came. Instead there were two more bangs. In the space of a minute three suicide bombers had blown themselves up among the pavement cafés in Ben Yehuda street, killing themselves and five Israelis.

Nor was this the end of the bad news. The following morning the cafés and shops on Ben Yehuda, having spent the night undergirding repairs, reopened defiantly. But within a few hours most had turned up their radios to full volume so their customers could hear a statement from army command that 12

Israeli soldiers had been killed overnight by Hizbollah, the Islamic guerrillas, in Israel's worst defeat in Lebanon since 1985.

No wonder that the first visit of Madeline Albright to Israel and the Middle East as US Secretary of State, which starts today, eight months after her appointment, has been preceded by a barrage of briefings by the State Department aimed at lowering expectations. A senior US official said the aim was "to persuade Israelis and Palestinians that they had a common destiny in peace-making". Going by this gloomy prognosis anything other than the outbreak of immediate war will be portrayed as a diplomatic victory.

Why has the US been so inactive for so long? The most obvious reason is that it has not known what to do since Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister of Israel in May last year. The US had devoted immense but unavailing efforts to keeping Labour in power. It

even organised a sort of pre-election solidarity meeting of world leaders for Shimon Peres, the previous Israeli prime minister, at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt after four devastating suicide bombings.

Of American presidents this century, President Clinton is probably the most dependent on the support of the Jewish community in the US. The six million American Jews have always been one of the main supports of the Democratic Party. No less than 78 per cent voted for Mr Clinton when he first won the presidency in 1992. They provide between a quarter and half of Democratic party campaign funds, according to Jewish Power by JJ Goldberg, the definitive work on Jewish politics in the US. This does not give Mr Clinton or Vice-President Al Gore, who wants to succeed him in the White House, much incentive to put pressure on Israel.

Their room for manoeuvre is constrained by a more recent development. While a majority

of American Jews have always favoured the Oslo accords and negotiations with the Palestinians, the Jewish lobbying organisations have moved sharply to the right. Militant supporters of Israel are increasingly religious and Republican. The same is true of the immensely influential American Israel Public Affairs Committee. In the Republican-controlled Congress, Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, and Trent Lott, the leader of the Senate, are unrelentingly hostile to Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and supportive of Mr Netanyahu.

But there is another, probably more significant reason why President Clinton did not put more effort into restraining Mr Netanyahu from abandoning the land-for-peace formula that has been the basis for Israeli-Palestinian talks since the Madrid conference in 1991. At that time, the US wanted to consolidate its dominance in the Arab Middle East after the Gulf war. It needed to show the Arab states, who had joined the alliance against Iraq, that Washington could resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and that it was not deaf to the demand of the Palestinians for self-determination.

This need is now largely a memory. The influence of the Arab states in the world is probably at a lower point than at any time since the end of the Second World War. The economic and political siege of Iraq has been sustained for seven years without difficulty. The election of Mr Netanyahu created rumbles in the Arab world but no real reaction. Mr Arafat met

with President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan in Cairo last week, but neither is powerful enough to deviate far from his alliance with the US.

Mr Netanyahu therefore appears to be in a strong position. He has full support from the US. Opinion polls show that most Americans blame the Palestinians for the breakdown of Oslo. He has powerful allies in Congress. At home, Israel remains as divided as it was during the last election. Political differences over how to deal with the Palestinians are reinforced by the divide between secular and religious Jews, and the ethnic difference between Jews from Europe and the Middle East.

In Israel, as in the US, the activists and militants are on the right. After the assassination, in 1995, of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir, a religious nationalist associated with the Jewish settlers on the West Bank, the Israeli supporters of Oslo seemed to suffer a collective failure of will. Had Mr Peres called an immediate election he would have won it and the history of the Middle East might have been very different. In fact he waited until the impact of the assassination had died away, suicide bombers had returned and he lost the election for prime minister by a few thousand votes.

Ever since he took office Mr Netanyahu has done everything to weaken the Palestinian proto-state which was developing in Gaza and the West Bank. The number of Jewish settlers has increased. Palestinians born and bred in Jerusalem have found their local ID cards removed

because "their centre of life" was not in the city. The number of house demolitions has soared. The Israeli leader spoke of withdrawing from 40 per cent of the West Bank rather than the 90 per cent Mr Arafat expected.

Mr Netanyahu was strengthened by another development. The weakness of the Palestinian quasi-state was largely the result of Israeli insistence that its powers be limited. But some of its wounds were self-inflicted. Mr Arafat runs it in the same authoritarian way as he had the Palestinian-controlled areas in Lebanon before the Israeli invasion of 1982. He delegates power to some 11 security services. He disregards the fledgling Palestinian judiciary and legislature and tolerates high levels of corruption.

In the impoverished enclave of Gaza, local Palestinians notice that Mohammed Dahlan, the head of the Preventive Security police agency, is building himself a fine mansion overlooking the sea. Dr Fathi Subuh, a professor at al-Azhar university, is still in jail after setting an exam paper for his students which asked them about corruption in Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Even the exam papers were confiscated by Preventive Security agents.

The corruption and brutality have important political consequences. The election of Mr Netanyahu, and of an Israeli parliament opposed to Oslo, probably made a renewed confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians inevitable. The Palestinians had too little authority to consolidate and what they had was being nibbled away at the edges by Mr

Netanyahu. But confrontation did not necessarily mean that there would be a return of the suicide bomber. On the contrary it would have been much in the Palestinian interest to mount confrontations with settlers and the Israeli army in every village and settlement along the lines of the Intifada of 1987-92. If there was to be killing they could have let it come from the other side.

This did not happen because Mr Arafat's organisation, although ramshackle, is jealous of anybody acting without orders. Disillusionment with the Palestinian Authority was too great to allow popular mobilisation. Much of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fought out at the level of an information war. Mr Arafat has always been peculiarly inept at waging this. His administration is like a medieval court, with all decisions and appointments dependent on his whim. His spokesmen are arrogant, ignorant and incompetent.

Israelis and Palestinians alike make great efforts to portray themselves as victims. Mr Netanyahu says the Palestinians are trying to throw the Israelis into the sea. The Palestinians retort that the Israelis have been rather more successful in throwing them into the desert. But the failure of the PA to launch a more politically sophisticated confrontation with Mr Netanyahu earlier in the year opened a political vacuum that is now being filled by suicide bombers from Hamas.

There is no doubt that the bombing is supported by a large section of the 2.5 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West

Bank. The latest opinion poll shows that 28 per cent of Palestinians back the suicide bombers. They see them as making the brutal point that if Mr Netanyahu abandons the land-for-peace formula then Israeli security will suffer. But it also makes it possible for the Israeli leader to renege on the promise to end the occupation of most of the West Bank as promised in the interim Oslo Agreement signed by the previous government in 1995.

It is just possible that Mrs Albright might get somewhere in the long term. Key aspects of the Oslo Agreement are difficult to uphold. Because its signing on the White House lawn in 1993 provoked an outpouring of smaltz it is easy to overlook that it represented a real balance of power between Israeli and Palestinians. The Intifada of 1987 showed that the Israel occupation would be resisted. Despite all the talk of Oslo being dead in recent days it is unlikely that Mr Netanyahu will decisively reverse it by invading the Palestinian enclaves.

But the peace process has gradually become a war process. Two peoples who detest each other will contest control of the West Bank. By building bypass roads, carrying out demolitions and establishing checkpoints and settlements Mr Netanyahu will try to marginalise the Palestinians of the West Bank and Jerusalem. Going by the history of the last 30 years he will not succeed. But while he tries people in Jerusalem will listen intently for the comforting sound of an aircraft engine whenever they hear the sound of a boom reverberating through their city.

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## I've started it, now you can finish it ...

May I say straightaway that I intend to follow the general code of practice where the Royal Family is concerned, and that I have no intention of pestering Prince Harry or Prince William for their opinion on Scottish devolution?

Or anyone else, for that matter?

Thank you. Now, to get back to the more weighty matter of *Mastermind*, the one question that I have never seen answered is this: Did any contestant on *Mastermind* ever catch out the questioner? In other words, was there a moment when the contestant felt convinced he had got the answer right and Magnus Magnusson had got it wrong?

Clearly this is something we would never have seen on television, because if such a thing ever occurred it would be edited out of the programme. I did once meet a man who told me that he had been present at a *Mastermind* recording session where it did actually happen. A contestant was answering questions on

philately and was not happy when his answer was turned down by Magnus Magnusson. He said he thought he was right. Magnusson said he was wrong. The man said he was sorry, but he was right. Magnusson said he was sorry, but he ... This could have gone on all day were it not that one of the cameramen (according to my informant) then intervened and said that HE was sorry but he was a stamp collector himself and he thought Magnus Magnusson was wrong ... So they skipped the question.

I am not sure that this story is true, and would not even have suggested it was, were it not that it is exactly the sort of thing that we all wish did happen. Wouldn't it be wonderful if sometimes a quizmaster got it wrong? Well, sometimes he does. I have twice in my life heard a question asked - on air - that was clearly not matched to the answer, and as I don't suppose I shall ever hear it a third time, I ought to chronicle these two while the going is good.

The first occasion was



Miles Kington

many years ago when Hughie Green was alive and well and inflicting fairly simple questions on fairly simple people. I can remember him once asking a family of four people to name four Shakespeare plays in a minute. They made it with only seconds to spare.

But the Hughie Green moment I remember best is when he said to a young man: "Now, in which country is the police force called the Sureté?"

Written down, that looks fine. But Hughie Green had not checked the pronunciation beforehand and what he said was "Suret". In which country is the national police force called the Sureté? For a moment the world stood still. Sitting at home, I was momentarily baffled and then tumbled to the fact that he was trying to say Sureté. In the studio, there was blankness. Then the young man made a wild guess. "France?" he said. "Right," said Hughie and the gaffe went unnoticed.

Let us leap forward 20 years to last month when, over in America, my wife and I found ourselves in a taxi near Burlington, Vermont. The car radio was on. It was broadcasting a local radio quiz show called *Slingshot* on which listeners had to answer five questions correctly in a row to get a prize. Here are some of the questions I noted down, to give you the flavour.

"What is the capital of Scotland?" (Glasgow, guessed the listener. The taxi driver hooted with laughter.) "The island of Sri Lanka is 20 miles off the coast of which country?" (He got India, after a bit of thought.)

"Which body is at the centre of the solar system?" (Er, the sun?) "He wrote *The Grapes of Wrath*. His initials are JS. Who is he?" (No idea.) "Which American state has a name which uses only three different letters?" (Could you say that again?) The last question was a good one. My wife toyed with Mississippi, I kept thinking of Utah, but the taxi driver got there first with Ohio ...

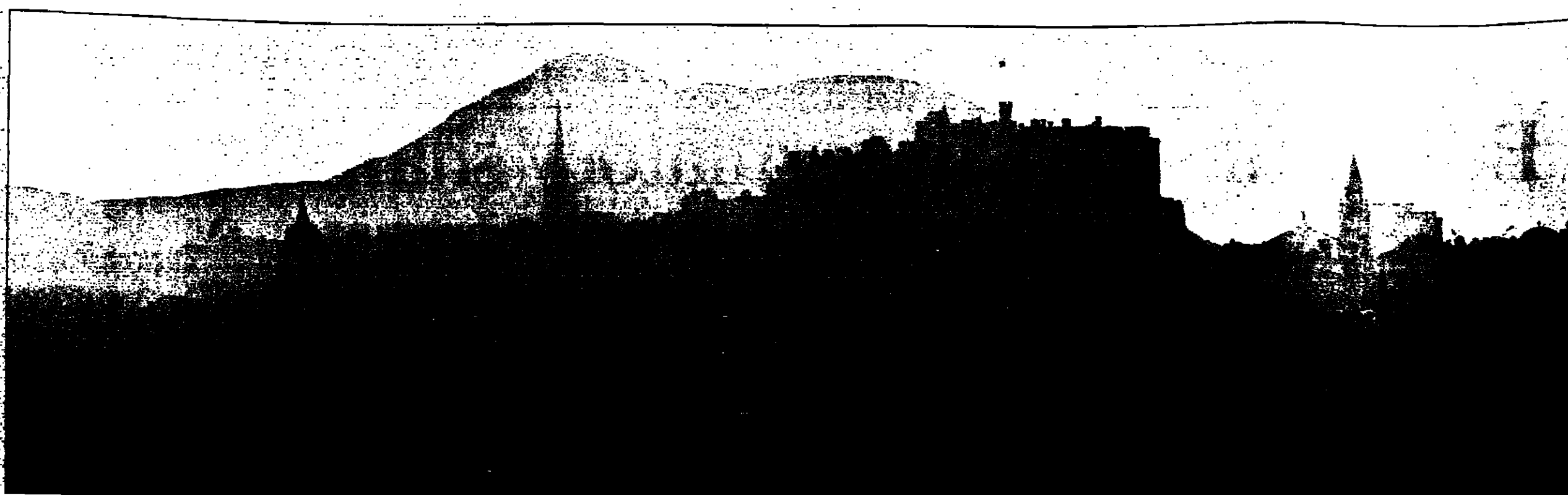
"Which poet had the middle name Beisch?" said the quizmaster.

Beisch? That was what it sounded like. It rhymed with the German word 'Fleisch', anyway. Beisch ... Beisch ...

Sudden flash of insight. Percy Bysshe Shelley! It was the Hughie Green trap! Nobody had reminded him how to pronounce Bysshe, which is not a common American name at the best of times.

Well, that's it. Two quiz errors in a lifetime. Not a lot, really, I suppose. But if anyone has any other instances, I would be pleased to pass them on to the readership.





Dawn of a new age? Early morning yesterday in Edinburgh, seat of the Scottish parliament if the voters conform to the pollsters' predictions

Photograph: Brian Harris

# Scotland: the unanswered questions

## THE ECONOMICS

Devolution has to work in economic terms too. The main thrust of the debate over Scotland's future has been in political terms; where economics has entered it, it has been over the single issue of tax-varying powers – relevant to the economy of course but hardly crucial to its future.

This is odd. If devolution is to be a success it must be an economic success. If in 20 years' time Scots are materially poorer than English people, devolution will catch much of the blame; if they are significantly richer it will get much of the credit. Devolution is not independence; but its perceived success or failure will influence that debate too.

What do we know about devolution and economics? Not a lot. Predicting the consequences of any political change on an economy is fraught with peril. Why did the separation of Singapore from the Malaysian Federation power an economic triumph? Will political change in Hong Kong herald an economic downturn? But if one talks about countries rather than regions one thing does seem pretty clear. It is no longer necessary to be big.

One obvious reason is that you no longer have to be a big country to have access to a big market. Singapore is tiny but can sell to the world – a population of 2.9m has nearly two and a half per cent of world exports. A series of related developments have changed the economics of size.

Most obvious of these is the emergence of regional blocs like the EU and now NAFTA. More important, I think, have been the changes in the nature of trade: the surge in the trade in intellectual property, rising foreign direct investments where countries ship the goods rather than the goods themselves; the fall in telecommunications costs which means that there is no longer any economic fringe. The best example of this last phenomenon is the growth of call centres – people answering telephones. This has been the biggest single source of new jobs in the United States over the last five years and is in the process of taking off in Europe too. With cheap telecommunications a call centre can be anywhere in the world.

So how does Scotland – certainly as a more independent region, maybe eventually as a more independent country – fare in this changing world? And how does devolution help or hinder its competitiveness?

I think over the next generation the balance of economic advantage will tend to shift Scotland's way. It has cer-



Hamish McRae

Assembly delegates need to think hard about how to raise the human capital of the land

tainly shifted Ireland's way partly as a result of EU subsidies but more because of the successful attraction of international investment to take advantage of its young, well-educated population. One fascinating question is to what extent is the Irish experience of economic independence relevant to the coming Scottish experience of economic devolution. (I should say that I am an Anglo-Scott, brought up mostly in Ireland.)

There are I think at least four economic lessons and maybe a political one. Lesson one is that neither country is any longer on the economic fringe. Cheap air travel and very cheap telecommunications make it possible to export output anywhere in the world. This does not necessarily confer a new advantage on Scotland, but it does mean that a long-standing disadvantage has now gone.

Lesson two is that cultural capital is enormously important. Both countries have it in spades, not just producing products which embody that culture, like whisky and Guinness, but rather being able to export culture in subtle ways. For example, only this week a new survey showed that Irish and Scottish voices were the most helpful for people seeking a job. Sounding trustworthy is an extraordinary asset in a world where telecommunications becomes more important.

Lesson three is that education is enormously important. Education is a much more complex and subtle thing than most people appreciate: that mix of intelligence, order, innovation, flexibility, even charm. The Irish education system seems to have lifted its game dramatically in the last 30 years and has interacted with political self-confidence to produce employees who are extremely attractive to international investors. Does devolution enable Scotland to improve its education system still further? And if not, why not?

Lesson four is you have to be flexible on tax. This is simply to point out that the Irish economic renaissance has relied heavily on tax breaks to attract foreign investors. There is a danger here of caning domestic taxpayers in order to bribe distant companies. But cleverly used, Scottish flexibility on taxation could mimic the Irish experience. Scotland will need to be thoughtful about the way it uses its tax leeway – assuming it gets it.

This points to the political lesson. For the first years of Irish independence the government was preoccupied with asserting the country's identity. Economics took a back seat and the economic take-off only really began 40 years after independence in the 1960s, even before Ireland joined the European Union. I suggest that the delegates in the Scottish Assembly need to think about economics because political activity on its own will not make the Scottish economy more successful. You can see how political autonomy might reinforce the plus points noted here. But you could also see how inept politicians could stifle them. In particular local politicians need to think hard about how they work to raise the human capital of the land – something that is much more important than the physical and financial capital. How do you create the buzz that builds human capital? I don't know. But I know that Scottish politicians need to think about this and I worry that they don't.

It is surely worrying too that tax-varying powers should be discussed as tax-raising powers, rather than selective, well-targeted, tax-cutting powers. It's worrying that there should be such a pre-occupation with tax when so many government functions now turn on employing existing resources more effectively rather than simply spending more resources. Besides, governments have ways of nudging society that go far beyond taxing and spending as indeed the UK government is now demonstrating: encouraging, persuading, cajoling, charming. So too should assemblies.

## THE POLITICS



Sheena McDonald

The politicians are trading on the acquired cynicism of voters. They know we know they fudge and evade

"The main obstacle to devolution in Scotland," ran the news copy in my hand, "according to Jim Sillars, speaking at a pro-devolution rally in Glasgow, is in Ayrshire."

"So what is the obstacle?" I asked the sub-editor. "Where's the rest of the copy? What's he talking about?"

"Dunno. That's all we got."

I pondered. The only obstacle to devolution in Ayrshire we could think of, back in February 1979, when this particular piece of intelligence reached the BBC Edinburgh newsroom, was Jim Sillars himself. The co-founder of the breakaway Scottish Labour Party, Sillars was still the elected MP for South Ayrshire, from where he pricked the sides of the official Labour Party with his nationalist rhetoric. Home rulers feared his brand of support for the 1978 Scotland Act – which offered Scotland an Assembly ("Tytown") snorted the Sillars gang) financed by a block grant – would deter voters who saw full independence as the barely-veiled goal of would-be devolvers.

But Sillars was clearly not referring to himself as an obstacle. So who or what else could be described as an impediment in Ayrshire, birth of Scotland's bard, the occasional nationalist Robbie Burns, whose rousing lyric excoriated the "parcel of rogues" who had sold out the Scottish nation via the Act of Union in 1707?

And then it clicked. The copy had been phoned in from the Glasgow rally by a local reporter. Read phonetically, his words made perfect – even prophetic – sense. The only obstacle to devolution in Scotland is – inertia.

And, arguably, so it proved. On 2 March 1979, almost a third of voters in Scotland said no, and a third did not bother to vote. You can debate the reasons. Fear, snow, Alec Douglas-Home's notorious eye-of-vote TV appearance, or BBC Scotland's *Current Account*, where he promised no-voters a better deal – including tax-varying powers – under a Conservative government. All factors – but inertia certainly played its part in keeping the vote at home. So the 40 per cent threshold – a unique and very real obstacle – was not reached. The legislation fell. And in the subsequent General Election, the Scottish Labour Party rebels lost both their MPs, including Sillars, and collapsed; the SNP lost nine of their 11, but later gained Sillars as a member; and the Labour government was dispatched to 18 years of opposition.

So will it be different this time? Is Scotland sufficiently *en* to deliver a convincing vote on the package offered, one way or the other?

It's already different. And it was different before last week's events shattered national identities and securities. This time round, all pro-devolution parties have learned their lesson. Never mind integrity, get those votes in. Thus internal party unity is apparently

intact. Labour's 1979 dissenters, Robin Cook and Brian Wilson, are loyal frontbenchers. The spin-doctors have whisked Tam Dalyell into a harmless obscurity. The Nationalists serenely disregard their own awkward squad, as Jim Sillars rages, logically but vainly, against the inequities of demanding a mandate for pre-legislation proposals. And the Liberal Democrats shamelessly hint at further subsidisation for the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland. That Galloway and the Borders might seek matching concessions is neither considered nor rejected.

And this is the point. The politicians are trading on the acquired cynicism of voters in a mature democracy. They know we know they fudge and evade. They know we vote for our own reasons. They cheerfully offer us incompatible platforms and alliances, anticipating that we will forgive and forget if our own personal manifesto is not matched by their post-victory actions.

Thus the Scotland Forward campaign is spearheaded by (mostly) men representing clearly opposing ideals and aims, and comfortable to be identified as strange bedfellows. A Scottish Parliament cannot both save and end the union. But the Yogi

Bear dictum becomes reality in Scotland: when you see a fork in the road, take it.

Whether voters turned cynical about realpolitik will respond positively to this campaigning *chuzpah* will be a fascinating test of how far the principles of tactical voting are understood by the electorate. A yes vote for a Scottish parliament will be an ambiguous endorsement. Labour tacticians who promote devolution as the internal constitutional mechanism that will save the union cannot be sure that their traditional supporters have not been seduced by the nationalists' battle-cry – Scotland in Europe.

And that's another difference from 1979. The so-called "gap in the market" identified by Sillars back in the seventies – a space where nationalist socialists and moderate nationalists can peacefully co-habit – is being filled by a political culture ready for the unknown. Whether Scotland goes Catalan – one country two systems, European-style – or eventually opts for a kind of independence within the EU – is not argued on the streets with the passion of 1979.

Even the time-honoured spectre of increased taxation doesn't resonate with its ancient force. Scotland has effectively been voting for higher taxes for years. Gordon Brown's pledges on tax and spending were not aimed at his kinsfolk.

And last week came the difference that may swing it convincingly for the yes-yes campaign. The death of Diana has shocked Scotland as much as any territory of this United Kingdom. In Glasgow, great black banners hang in George Square, alongside the mounds of commemorative flowers and messages. But the speed with which the old dispensation was seen to melt in the wake of her sudden death has galvanised the kind of confidence this referendum needs, in a way that none of the appeals could have done.

And, after this accelerated campaign, where questions have not been answered nor issues clarified, do I now know how I'm going to vote? Ah, it's never been my practice to share the privacy of the polling booth, and some things do not change. But, yes. Yes – I know.

## Huckleberry Finn meets Rastafarian Bob

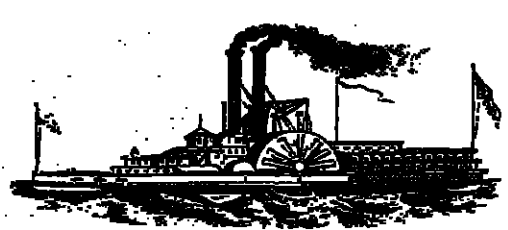
Chris Huff's small, scruffy houseboat pitched and rolled in the wake of a speedboat ploughing upstream. His plans slid a little on their tables. He frowned, stroked his ginger goatee and said: "We are going to have a lot of this rough stuff on the water today." It was late summer in Minneapolis along the banks of the Mississippi River – a mild top temperature of 80°F and a scattering of high clouds. The city yuppies were out in force in their boats, all polished hulls and fluttering stars and stripes. They glared at us from their decks. They would probably rather see a shiny new marina and sports bar here than a "floating shanty town" as Chris and his neighbours describe the place. Officially it is the Island Station Community, populated by a fistful of honest, unloading dice rolled here by the hand of 1990s America. Not so much drop-outs from society as drop-ins to a wilder, non-suburban way of life. For Dan Guinay, owner of the *El Maccondo* moored alongside Chris's boat, they live a "chop wood, carry water experience – a frontier kind of life, a family on the river."

Next to the *El Maccondo* was a 50ft former Second World War submarine chaser, now home to Richard Lindsey, a 48-year-old carpet salesman and Inter-Net junkie who spends his days glued to a 5ft-by-5ft TV and computer screen. He showed me a graph of that week's earth tremors in New Madrid, Missouri, 400 miles downriver where the last big earthquake caused the river to run

backwards for three days, and a chart showing the progress of Mississippi freight boats, or "tows." "Well looky there, the *Margaret D's* 90 miles south, and the *Becky Sue* and the *Patrick Gannaway*, well they're ploughing downriver just a couple miles from here," said Richard, talking more to himself than to me.

He and his friends were the first people I met on the river that was to be my home for the next month and a half. I had come to travel the length of the Mississippi, all 2,552 miles from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The river begins as a 7ft-wide trickle spilling over the lip of Lake Itasca from where I traced it – by dug-out canoe where it was deep and calm enough and by car on the Great River Road where the rapids proved too fierce. I paddled through a wilderness of white-pine forests, high bluffs and windy lakes. Wolves outnumbered humans along the banks, and ospreys and black hawks escorted me, often for several miles.

Autumn was coming on apace. The lumberjack settlement of Bemidji had its first frost the night I rolled into town and the sugar maples were wearing early splashes of red and yellow. Through the trees came the crack of shotguns from hunters shooting clay pigeons in training for the pheasant, goose and duck seasons which start this coming week-



## Mississippi Journey

Matt Brace  
PART ONE

By the time I reached the Island Community between the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St Paul, the river had widened to 100ft and developed a formidable current but it was still only a diminutive version of what it becomes in Memphis or on the delta, where it spews 600,000 cubic feet of water into the Gulf of Mexico every second.

From here I am catching the Mississippi towboats immortalised by Mark Twain which pull giant cargoes of grain, fertiliser and timber through the heartland of the Midwest and into the Deep South. When Twain was a passenger steamboat pilot more than a century ago, he got to know the towboatmen and recounted their stories. Now it was my turn to be Huckleberry Finn and discover the river and its people and how they have changed.

My first boat, the *Jo-Anne Stegbauer*, leaves later this week for Dubuque, Iowa. For now I was stranded, kicking my heels in Minneapolis where the talk was of little else but the death of a Princess. There was not anyone left in

the state that had not heard. Drag queens Rumba, Kitty and Tabla were so upset they could barely perform their dance routine at the Gay 90s club downtown. A few streets away in Liquor Lyle's a tall Rastafarian called Bob picked up my accent. He clasped my hand in his and, brow furrowed, told me: "She was one good lady. We real sorry for you English." His dreadlocks flicked from side to side as he shook his head in dismay. Even two men urinating into a sink in the Gents were doing their bit. "Is it Dee-ana or Di-ana?" the fat one slurred. "I dunno. They speak kinda funny," said his thin friend.

Last Saturday morning Susan Esquivel, the front desk manager at the Regency Plaza hotel, was bleary-eyed from an all-night TV vigil watching live coverage of the funeral. It had been on 11 of the 31 channels. She made me some strong coffee and we sat in the lobby picking over the carcass of arguably the biggest televised event ever. Was the death a tragedy? Sure it was. Was it worthy of such a massive, international outpouring of grief? We agreed to differ on that one. Susan told me there were condolence books somewhere in town, should I feel the urge to sign. I decided against it. Out here on the edge of the northern wilderness I felt somewhat detached from events in Kensington. I felt a long way from anything Royal. I felt a long way from home.

Part two of 'Mississippi Journey' will appear next Wednesday

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# business & city

**FINANCIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE YEAR**

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## Bowe quits PIA in regulatory shake-up

**Nic Cicutti**  
 Personal Finance Editor

The Government's drive to overhaul the policing of the financial services industry yesterday as Colette Bowe, chief executive at the Personal Investment Authority, one of the leading regulators, announced her resignation.

Ms Bowe said she had decided not to apply for any of the senior posts on offer at the new financial watchdog, NewRO, into which all her own organisation's functions will be merged. She will step down from her position at the PIA, which regulates retail financial services, at the turn of the year.

Her resignation comes at a time when NewRO, the super-regulator announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, soon after the May general election, has already been interviewing candidates for many of the available posts.

Ms Bowe said: "I have hugely enjoyed the challenge of PIA. A great deal remains to be done to conclude the pensions review and to take forward the work we have started here on training and competence and disclosure."

Critics of Ms Bowe claimed that her refusal to apply for a new post was almost certainly the result of an understanding on her part that she would not have been offered a suitable job. One regulatory source said: "She was given a job to do at the PIA and there are many people, particularly within the Labour Party, who believe she muffed it. She failed to sort out the pension review and ensure compensation to those who were mis-sold personal pensions. Regulation of retail financial services has not been a conspicuous success. Draw your own conclusions."

Bernard Jones, chairman of the IFA Association, which represents many financial advisers in the PIA, said: "I think her days were numbered from the moment the new Government decided it was going to create a super-regulator. They made it clear they were dissatisfied with the existing state of regulation."

This view was strongly rejected by a PIA spokeswoman: "Colette Bowe has been a chief executive and in charge of the entire show for almost four years. The NewRO jobs were far more compartmentalised and simply did not offer enough of a challenge." Treasury sources also said they "did not recognise" the criticisms of Ms Bowe's effectiveness or suggestions that she had been edged out.

Joc Palmer, PIA chairman, said: "I wish to express our warmest thanks to Colette for getting the PIA up and running and making it an effective force in the field of retail financial services regulation. Her knowledge and strong leadership has been greatly appreciated."

NewRO is headed by Howard Davies, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England. Its core will be formed by the existing Securities and Investment Board (SIB), the senior City watchdog, which takes on the functions of all the other regulators, including the PIA. Mr Davies said: "We are sorry she has decided not to apply and wish her well in her future career."

Among those who are believed to have been interviewed by Saxton Bampfylde, a firm of recruitment consultants, for senior posts at NewRO are Phillip Thorpe, chief executive at Imro, the fund manager's watchdog, and Richard Farrant, chief executive at the Securities and Futures Authority, the stockbrokers' regulator. An announcement is expected next week.



Change roles for policing the City: (clockwise from above) Colette Bowe; Howard Davies; Phillip Thorpe; and Richard Farrant

Ms Bowe, 50, has been at PIA since January 1994. Before then, she spent five years at SIB, where she was in charge of retail regulation.

Prior to becoming a financial regulator, Ms Bowe spent 11 years at the Department of Trade and Industry, where she was accused of leaking docu-

ments criticising the then Defence Minister, Michael Heseltine, for his role in the Westland helicopter affair.

PIA sources suggested that part of Ms Bowe's concerns, prompting her decision not to apply for a job, may have been over the nature of the way the super-regulator will conduct its work.

In place of division heads responsible for every aspect of the regulation of their members, a so-called "vertical" approach, functions will be split "horizontally". Senior executives will be expected to take charge only of one aspect of regulation rather than everything affecting a member.

PIA sources suggested that Ms Bowe may have felt she would be unable to see through any aspect of her former regulator's work. However, Ms Bowe is also known to have been the private butt of scathing comments by several senior Labour politicians about her abilities as PIA chief executive.

Helen Liddell, the new Treasury Minister, recently read the riot act to top insurance companies over pensions mis-selling. The PIA deadline for resolving compensation cases was December 1995, but by last May, barely 10 per cent of the "urgent" 550,000 cases had been dealt with.

Comment, page 19

## Boom time ahead for Big Five developing countries

**Diane Coyle**  
 Economics Editor

Unprecedented growth in the world's five biggest developing countries will double their share of the world economy by 2020. Half of the likely increase in the rich countries' exports during this period will go to the developing world.

These dramatic predictions, contained in the World Bank's annual assessment of global economic prospects, imply an upheaval in the way the world does business, as more and more of industry becomes truly international. But the bank's economists reckon that developed and developing countries alike could benefit enormously.

Milan Brahmbhatt, the principal author of the report, said: "The outlook for developing countries looks much more favourable over the next 10 years than in the previous decade." He warned, however, that some countries in Africa and the Middle East whose policies cut them off from international capital and competition risked being left behind.

The World Bank forecasts a further increase in private investment in the developing world from last year's record of \$250bn to just under \$250bn (£157bn). The recent crisis in East Asia would lead to only a temporary pause, according to Uri Dadush, head of the bank's development prospects group. "Other regions have been relatively untouched by the crisis, and its effects are likely to prove short-lived," he said.

In its annual report, published separately yesterday, the International Monetary Fund emphasised the steps it has taken to be able to respond more quickly to financial crises. The annual meetings of the bank and fund, starting in Hong Kong next week, will review how well the arrangements worked in East Asia.

A senior IMF official said the fund had issued clear warnings about the possibility of a currency crisis, both in private and public, some months before the emergency devaluation of the Thai baht. It had also put together very rapidly its second biggest emergency loan ever to bail out the Thai.

The World Bank's Mr Dadush said the emerging importance of the "Big Five" - Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia - with half the world's labour force but accounting for only a tenth of world output - would transform trade relationships. Their share of world GDP was likely to climb to just over a fifth by 2020. This expansion meant the developing countries would take 50 cents out of every dollar's worth of the OECD countries' export growth.

The growing importance of the Big Five will revive suggestions that they will eventually oust countries like the UK and Italy from the G7, the exclusive club of the world's richest economies.

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## Biocompatibles shares dive as US deal falters

**Sameena Ahmad**

Shares in Biocompatibles yesterday went into free-fall, plunging by 36 per cent after the medical coatings company failed to agree a comprehensive licensing deal with US healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson.

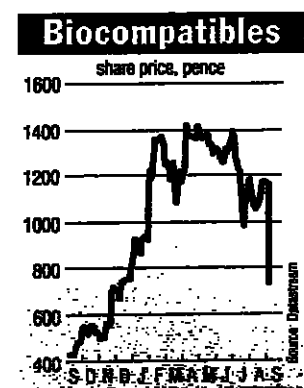
The market had expected the company to announce a wide-ranging licence agreement with J&J whereby Biocompatibles' novel coating, which prevents blood clots, would be used with J&J's stents - devices which keep blood vessels open after surgery. J&J has 90 per cent of the \$1.3bn (£818m) stent market in the USA and a deal using Biocompatibles' coating on every stent would have been very valuable to the UK company.

However Biocompatibles said J&J had decided to limit the collaboration to a new version of its coating to deliver drugs rather than use it to prevent blood clotting generally. J&J has also decided not to dis-

tribute Biocompatibles' own range of stents. Widespread use of the coating on stents was a big hope for Biocompatibles, which so far makes only limited sales from using it on contact lenses. Shares in the company have soared from 428p in October to a £14.20 high this year on hopes of a deal.

The company's shares closed yesterday at 732.5p, a fall of 415p wiping £300m off the company's market value at £535m. The price fell as low as 622.5p at one stage yesterday.

Speaking as the group announced interim results, Alastair Taylor, Biocompatibles' president said he was bemused about why J&J, Biocompatibles' biggest single shareholder, was not interested in the coating to prevent blood clots. He said there had been no disagreement about price: "Maybe they have some magical coating in their back pocket. We don't think so though. J&J just said they were not persuaded that there is



such a big market for an anti blood-clotting product." Mr Taylor said. He said that other US stent companies, thought to include Boston Scientific and Medtronic, were interested in the product: "We are talking to five other stent companies who disagree with J&J's view and who are keen to use the coating for thrombosis. We can help them take market share from J&J. J&J are already losing share in the US because they are not being aggressive enough and they have only 15 per cent of the European market."

Jo Walton, drug analyst at Lehman Brothers said she did not understand J&J's thinking: "I am confused. All the data suggests that Biocompatibles' stents and coatings were top notch and that J&J was in desperate need of such a product."

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## Mortgage increases push up inflation to two-year high

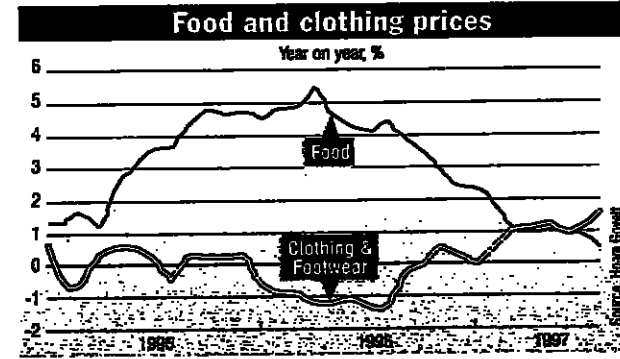
**Diane Coyle**  
 Economics Editor

The rate of inflation jumped to its highest for two years last month, but increased mortgage rates were the main culprit. The underlying inflation measure, excluding mortgage interest payments, edged closer towards the Government's 2.5 per cent target.

The latest economic figures are unlikely to affect the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, holding its monthly meeting today and tomorrow. It is not expected to raise interest rates, at least for now.

City experts said the retail price figures were a mixed bag. The mortgage increases took the headline rate of inflation to 3.5 per cent in August from 3.3 per cent. As recently as April, before any of the recent interest rate increases, headline inflation was only 2.4 per cent.

On the other hand, the target measure, the RPI less mortgage interest payments, fell from 3 per cent to 2.8 per cent in August. Its target is 2.5 per cent, although the Bank can al-



low it to vary between 1.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent.

The main reason for the decline in underlying inflation was an unexpected drop in the price of seasonal foods. The price of fresh vegetables like lettuce and tomatoes declined by 10.5 per cent during the month compared with 8.3 per cent last August.

Strawberry prices also fell from their high levels in July as the weather improved, whereas, as last August they had jumped. Food prices overall fell by 0.4 per cent in the year to August, with the seasonal component

declining 5.1 per cent and non-seasonal food prices edging up by 0.3 per cent during the 12 months.

However, there were price increases in all other categories. The annual rate of price increase in leisure services climbed to 5.8 per cent from 4.9 per cent in July. Higher foreign holiday costs were to blame.

Clothing and footwear prices jumped 2 per cent during the month, a seasonal effect as the new fashions reach the high street.

But the inflation rate for this category jumped to 1.6 per

cent from 1.1 per cent the previous month.

Although the figures did not affect prospects for interest rates, City economists were underwhelmed. "The target measure will carry on falling for a bit longer but it will be difficult to sustain inflation around 2.5 per cent," said Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe.

John O'Sullivan at NatWest Markets agreed. "There is no obvious downward trend towards the target," he said.

Some expressed concern that the jump in the headline rate would put upward pressure on wages because pay negotiations use it, rather than the government's target measure, as their benchmark. Incomes Data Services, which monitors pay settlements, recently reported more increases of 3.5 per cent and over.

"As the Bank has stated explicitly that it regards the danger of rising pay pressures as being one of the key 'upside risks' to inflation, the potential consequences of the rise in the headline rate will alarm them," said Richard Iley at ABN-Amro.

Comment, page 19

## Guinness rivals' EU appeal to halt merger

**Andrew Yates**

Rivals of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan are set to intensify the pressure on the UK drinks groups proposed £23bn merger by writing to the European Commission outlining their objections to the deal.

Allied Domecq, Irish Distillers and Seagram, the Canadian drinks giant, are due to submit their formal objections to the merger to the European Commission within the next

few days according to sources in Brussels close to the discussions. They are likely to outline their fears that the merger will give Guinness and GrandMet a stranglehold over the European spirits market and a virtual monopoly in certain markets such as Spain, Germany and the Benelux countries.

The EC has already voiced concerns that the merger will give Guinness and GrandMet a dominant position in these spirit markets. It is particularly

worried that the new group, called GMG Brands would have a monopoly over the European Scotch whisky market, with brands such as J&B, Bell's and Johnnie Walker. The EC believes that GMG Brands will have a Scotch whisky market share well in excess of 40 per cent in some countries.

Analysts believe that GMG Brands may be forced to give up several brands to get the green light from competition authorities in Europe and the US.

The three drinks rivals voiced their objections to the GrandMet-Guinness merger at an EC hearing into the deal in Brussels last week. This will be the last hearing into the deal. The EC now has until 27 October to make its final decision on the merger.

GMG Brands will also have to overcome the threat of Bernard Arnault, the head of French luxury goods group LVMH, who has launched his own crusade to scupper the deal.

## Stock Exchange cuts its charges for UK trading

The London Stock Exchange is cutting its charges for the trading of UK shares for the first time since Big Bang 10 years ago to coincide with the launch of order-driven trading next month, writes Michael Harrison.

The new pricing structure, which will see charges fall by more than a half, will make London one of the most competitive exchanges in the world with lower charges than New York or

any of the main European bourses.

For trading on the new order book, which applies only to stocks in the FTSE 100 Index, the charges will be cut from 15p per £1,000 of shares under the previous system to 6p per £1,000. The maximum charge remains at £10.

For trading in shares outside the FTSE 100 the maximum charge is cut from £10 to £2.25.

## Harrisons considers break-up options

**Andrew Yates**

Harrisons & Crosfield, the troubled chemicals to pet food conglomerate, said yesterday that it was willing to break itself up in an effort to reverse the alarming decline in its share price, which has almost halved over the last four years.

Bill Turcan, H&C's chief executive, hinted that at least one of the company's three operating divisions would be sold. The group, which has a stock market value of almost £825m, is thought likely to keep the bulk of its chemicals business, which provides pigments to paint manufacturers. However its timber and building supplies operation, which includes the Harcross builder's merchant chain, and its food and agriculture business, producing anything from pet food and cattle feed to malt for beer, could both be sold.

Mr Turcan said: "We are not satisfied with our share price performance. We are aware of the pressure on conglomerates and wherever they do they seem to be derided. While we may not unbundle all our businesses we are undergoing a fundamental review of the company."

"We have said that we want to grow our chemical business and are looking for acquisitions," he added.

However, the group's short-term giving any details of which operations would be chopped and disappointed City observers by saying it would not announce the results of the review until next month.

One analyst said: "A break-up is inevitable. The builder's merchant is the obvious candidate for a demerger and other businesses will no doubt be sold. Any proceeds should be returned to shareholders as the group with its record will not get away with ploughing the money back into the business."

The group is likely to give shareholders a special dividend or launch a share buy-back with any disposal proceeds. It has come under increasing pressure from large institutional shareholders to do something about its plummeting share price.

Meanwhile Harrisons' saw pre-tax profits slump from £64m to £38.6m in the six months to June with the recent rise in the value of sterling costing the group £8m.

The shares rose 3.5p to 115p yesterday, compared to analysts' forecasts of a break up value of 125p-140p a share.

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STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low
FTSE 100	4950.50	+34.70	+0.7	5088.80	4056.80
FTSE 250	4677.00	+9.10	+0.2	4729.40	3386.20
FTSE 350	2386.90	+14.40	+0.6	2438.00	2017.90
FTSE SmallCap	2279.55	+1.29	+0.1	2374.20	2178.29
FTSE All-Share	2333.11	+13.07	+0.6	2376.39	1969.76
New York	7862.59	+27.41	+0.3	8259.31	5032.94
Tokyo	18955.97	+62.11	+0.3	20881.07	17303.85
Hong Kong	14996.66	+190.17	+1.3	16673.27	12055.17
Frankfurt	4094.39	+26.38	+0.6	4438.93	2848.77

INTEREST RATES					
Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year
UK short sterling	7.40	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
UK medium gilt	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
US long bond	6.87	6.87	6.87	6.87	6.87
Money Market Rates	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Bond Yields (%)	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
UK	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
US	6.87	6.87	6.87	6.87	6.87
Japan	0.47	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53
Germany	3.18	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56

CURRENCIES					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low
£/\$	1.5805	+0.0002	+0.01	1.5805	1.5805
£/DM	0.8287	-0.0017	-0.21	0.8287	0.8287
£/¥	158.05	+0.01	+0.01	158.05	158.05
DM/\$	1.5805	+0.0002	+0.01	1.5805	1.5805
¥/\$	158.05	+0.01	+0.01	158.05	158.05
DM/£	0.8287	-0.0017	-0.21	0.8287	0.8287
¥/£	158.05	+0.01	+0.01	158.05	158.05

OTHER INDICATORS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low
Oil Brent \$	18.26	+0.00	0.00	18.26	18.26
Gold \$	321.65	+0.00	0.00	321.65	321.65
Gold £	202.36	-1.0	-0.5	202.36	202.36
Rate Base	7.0000	0.0000	0.00	7.0000	7.0000

Source: FT Information





## COMMENT

Whether the new system will work is anyone's guess. About the only model for such a broad-brush, monolithic approach to financial services regulation is Scandinavia, whose record of banking collapses is about as bad as they come

# Ms Bowe doesn't want a place in the new empire

It was perhaps always inevitable that at least some of the crown princes and princesses who run the City's oddball collection of regulatory fiefdoms would fail to find a place in the new, all-embracing, regulatory super-empire being set up under the leadership of Howard Davies. If you've been used to running your own show, being a lieutenant, albeit in a larger organisation, just ain't the same. Egos were bound to get sorely bruised, whatever Mr Davies decided to do.

As it is, Mr Davies has opted to reorganise the way the City is regulated along radically different lines. Out goes the old vertical structures under which regulators were responsible for whole sectors of the City, through authorisation to enforcement, and in comes a more horizontal approach, with regulators taking charge of particular functions across the full range of the financial services industry. Mr Davies intends to have three, possibly four, individuals reporting directly to him, but they won't, as might have been presumed, broadly mirror the three or four top regulatory and supervisory jobs as they presently exist.

Instead, there will be a chief executive to manage the SuperSib, a regulator to handle all supervision across the banking, securities and investment management industries, and a separate person to handle authorisation and enforcement, again across the board. There may be a third regulatory position, but this hasn't yet been decided. Whether it will work is anyone's guess.

About the only model for such a broad brush, monolithic approach to financial services regulation is Scandinavia, whose record of banking collapses is about as bad as they come. However, that's not the reason Colette Bowe decided to throw in the towel. She's not resigning from the PIA because she doesn't think the new SuperSib will work, or not that she's saying anyway, but because she didn't fancy any of the new jobs.

It is not clear, of course, that she was ever going to be offered any of them. Her record at the PIA has been at best mixed, and although she cannot in any way be blamed personally for the fiasco of pensions mis-selling, there is no getting away from the fact that she does run the regulator that was meant to be sorting it out. That was never going to look good on the job application. When it's Helen Liddell who is vetting the CVs, it was perhaps understandable that Ms Bowe decided that discretion was the better part of valour and opted not to apply at all. The new Economic Secretary to the Treasury has been privately highly critical of the way regulators have handled the mis-selling compensation.

Other senior regulators - Michael Foot from supervision at the Bank of England, Philip Thorpe, chief executive of Inra, and Richard Farrant, chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority - have applied. We'll know next week whether Mr Davies has decided to accommodate all or any of them. Given the months, and possibly years, of hard work and turmoil involved in getting the new

SuperSib to fly, it could well be that Ms Bowe has made the right choice.

## Another biotech star falls to earth

Another shooting star in the biotechnology sector has fallen to earth with a nasty bump. Until yesterday morning Biocompatibles International was worth £830m even though it has never made a profit and achieved a measly £11m in sales last year.

Never mind. It had a wonder product that was going to revolutionise the treatment of coronary conditions - a special coating that prevents infection of arteries and blood vessels. Until yesterday morning, that is, when Johnson and Johnson, which controls 90 per cent of the US market for this treatment, decided it was no longer interested in Biocompatibles' wonder product.

By the end of the day the company was worth £300m less - the shares having crashed 36 per cent - and the management were left to put a brave face on the loss of their only customer for their principal product.

Stocks of this nature are a not uncommon feature of the biotech sector. British Biotech suffered a sharp fall from grace in the early days when it ran into problems with a cancer drug. Cellect also suffered the stock market equivalent of sceptic shock when one of its great white hopes fell at the final hurdle of testing. Ditto Cantab.

And yet investors still seem willing to pile in, driving the shares of companies like Biocompatibles to unsustainable heights on the strength of a single, unproven product in an intensely competitive market where failure can be sudden and complete.

Unlike its shareholders, the Biocompatibles management remained unfazed yesterday by suggestions that it might have kept investors better informed. Far from being a setback, it said the collapse of the Johnson and Johnson deal freed the company to talk with a wider number of partners. That will be scant consolation to shareholders. But at least they can't say they were unaware that in biotechnology these things happen - particularly Johnson and Johnson, which happens to be the biggest single investor in Biocompatibles.

## The developing giants shouldn't worry the West

The young Titans of the world economy are growing up. This is something which some people in the mature, industrialised OECD countries tend to view with alarm. In the UK for instance, in the feverish run-up to the general election, there was uproar about a leaked Treasury document that predicted that some of the biggest developing countries would soon overtake some developed economies in terms of size, the UK among them.

This was a manufactured rumour over a

statement of the obvious. Half the world's workforce live in the five biggest developing economies - Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia. They would be getting something pretty badly wrong if they could not grow fast enough for their GDP to catch up with countries like Britain.

Size is irrelevant; what matters is wealth per capita. More worrying is the possibility that integration of countries like China into the world economy will cut either employment or wages within the OECD, especially for people in unskilled jobs. Again, however, it is probably not worth getting unduly concerned. As The World Bank pointed out in yesterday's annual report, the more the developing countries produce and grow, the more of our exports they buy, and the better it is for everybody. We get cheaper clothes imported from China, making us better off as consumers, and they buy more of our goods with the revenues, making us better off as workers.

The people who really have something to fear from increased competition with the Big Five are people living in smaller countries outside the charmed circle of the OECD. The smaller south east Asian tigers in particular have based their economic miracle on exports of cheap manufactured goods. That is just what China can do, except cheaper still and on a bigger scale. Past experience suggests that countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore can overcome such challenges. But it is they, not the well-heeled West, that should be worrying most about the developing giants.

# Government may try to mothball super-pit

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The Government yesterday pledged to examine the possibility of saving the Asfordby super-pit in Leicestershire from demolition, but accused the main union battling to halt the closure of "megaphone diplomacy".

The latest twist in the campaign came as RJB Mining, Asfordby's owner, revealed a 20 per cent drop in sales of coal to the privatised electricity generators in the first half of the year, casting further doubt on the industry's long-term prospects.

But Richard Budge, RJB chief executive, insisted he was confident that the company would sign new contracts for the bulk of its production next year when the existing long-term contracts expire.

John Battle, the industry minister, met a delegation of union representatives from Asfordby organised by David Taylor, MP for Leicestershire North West. He would ask the Coal Authority, the licensing body left after the privatisation,

to examine the unions' plea to mothball the site.

"It was a private meeting. They put their case forcibly and we are going to get the Coal Authority to look at the viable options," Mr Battle said.

One question was if the Coal Authority could stop RJB from filling in two deep shafts at the mine and demolishing winding towers. Mr Battle said the law surrounding the role of the Authority was being examined. But he warned: "It's Budge's pit. There's no way we can buy the pit."

Mr Battle dismissed as "megaphone diplomacy" a claim that Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, had been snubbed over the meeting. Mr Greatrex said he was told not to attend after a report of the impending gathering appeared in *The Independent* last week.

"He's using the excuse that he doesn't want to meet national officials. But I'm also president of the Nottinghamshire area of the UDM, so I've been directly involved with the negotiations," Mr Greatrex said.



Richard Budge: Confident that RJB will sign new contracts for the bulk of its production when existing deals expire

Mr Battle yesterday insisted the meeting was organised by the MP "I hadn't a clue who was on the Delegation. This was a local meeting to meet representatives from the pit."

The closure was announced last month, with RJB blaming a series of geological problems which forced the company to abandon work on a large coal face. RJB yesterday disclosed that the pit, which cost British Coal more than £300m to develop, made a profit of £2.1m in the first six months of the year, compared with losses of £15.3m.

But Mr Budge repeated that the unions had no chance of saving the mine, which could require more than £150m of investment to build a new roadway to alternative seams. "It isn't going to happen. If it won't work now, then it will have the same geological problems further on."

RJB unveiled a slight rise in pre-tax profits to £87.2m, despite a 17 per cent drop in turnover to £565.6m. The fall came largely from the fall in sales to the generators from 18 million tonnes to 14 million.

Mr Budge said contract negotiations with the generators were still going on. The five-year contracts to supply 30 million tonnes a year to National Power and PowerGen expire at the end of March.

# CWC to push ahead with £1bn investment programme

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless Communications, the UK's largest cable group, is to push ahead with a £1bn annual investment programme despite recent spending cuts elsewhere in the industry, and concerns over falls in the company's share price.

The pledge from Graham Wallace, chief executive, came yesterday as CWC revealed the first details of the group's £50m advertising campaign to replace four separate brands with a single identity. The relaunch, using the name of Cable & Wireless, which is CWC's controlling shareholder, is the biggest yet of the group's bid to provide the most effective competition to British Telecom and British Sky Broadcasting.

In a quietly conducted operation over the past week the original brands of the four com-



Graham Wallace: Revealed details of £50m ad campaign

panies which formed CWC, Mercury, Bell Cablemedia, Nynex CableComms and Videotron, all disappeared. Bizarrely, in the weeks preceding the rebranding CWC had invested heavily in promoting Mercury's telephone services to bring in additional revenues.

"It was a conundrum. We couldn't drop the Mercury name until we launched the new one," said Mr Wallace.

From Monday the first phase of CWC's advertising campaign will try to build awareness of the new brand among consumers, with heavy promotion on prime-time television. Mr Wallace said the company had learnt from the cable industry's disastrous £12m joint campaign last year featuring Dawn French, the comedienne.

"The problem with campaigns like that is that people don't remember cable, they remember Dawn French," Mr Wallace explained. Instead CWC's four TV adverts will use unknown actors, all on the theme of getting to know each other.

CWC hopes the relaunch will enable the company to start with a clean slate, leaving behind the long-standing complaints about customer service in the cable in-

dustry. But the rebranding exercise is also a gamble, carrying the risk of customer confusion. For Mr Wallace the past few months have been nerve-racking. He watched the company's share price, floated at 300p in April, drift steadily downwards. It closed yesterday at 253.5p, up 1p.

Telewest, the second largest cable group, recently slashed its investment spending and announced 1,400 job cuts. The news fuelled concerns that cable operators have mostly failed to make dramatic inroads into BT's residential customer base.

Mr Wallace admitted to frustration at CWC's share price performance, but pointed out that the three cable companies made up only a fraction of the group's sales. Mercury accounts for the bulk of the turnover.

He dismissed suggestions that CWC would follow Telewest by delaying its investment programme.

# La Senza halts expansion as losses spiral

Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

Embattled shareholders in La Senza, the lingerie group which came to the market last year, suffered a fresh blow yesterday when the struggling retailer announced mounting losses and said the illustrative projections set out in its listing prospectus "should be disregarded".

Shares in La Senza, which were priced at 150p when the company was floated on the Alternative Investment Market last summer, lost 41 per cent of their value, closing 26.5p lower at 38.5p.

The company is halting its aggressive store opening programme and will persist instead with its existing 52 outlets. Reporting pre-tax losses of £2.9m in the six months to 2 August compared to a £1.6m loss in the same period last year, the company said spiralling property prices had made many projected openings uneconomic. In addition, planning and buying difficulties have led to inconsistency of supply and an excessive reliance on low-priced merchandise and promotional activity.

In its flotation prospectus, La Senza was forecast to make pre-tax profits of £2.3m this year. These figures had already been scaled back following a profits warning earlier this year. The group is now expected to make losses in excess of the £1.5m recorded in the last full year.

Nuala McGourty, the former retail director, will replace the 30-year-old Joel Teitelbaum as managing director. Mr Teitelbaum, the son of the chairman, Irving Teitelbaum, will remain on the board with responsibility for the property portfolio.

Four senior managers have left the group as a result of the recent problems. However, Laurence Lewin, the deputy chairman said institutional investors had not been pushing for further boardroom changes.

"Nobody has turned to me and said 'on yer bike'," he said. He added that the company would "hopefully now get its act together". He said he still believed that the La Senza trading format could work in the UK.

Williams de Broe, which acted as La Senza's nominated adviser during the float defended its position. Graham Lewinstein said: "We thought it was properly priced and we examined the company's projections in a lot of detail. We followed the performance of the La Senza operation in Canada and everything seemed to make sense."

Adding that La Senza is "not a lost cause", he said the movement in the property market could not have been forecast at the time. Mr Lewin said lease costs in some locations had risen by 38 per cent in the past year. He added that the company had a list of 41 sites where the group had either been gannapped or Mr Lewin had decided that the costs were too high.

La Senza is 60 per cent owned by Sany Shier, the Canadian group which launched the La Senza chain in Canada and now has over 12 per cent of the local lingerie market.

## IN BRIEF

### US pay deal boosts Airbus order hopes

Hopes rose that Airbus could gain a landmark order for 400 aircraft, after US Airways offered pilots an improved pay deal. The airline, formerly USAir, has warned that it would not go ahead with the potential order, which would be the biggest in Airbus's history, if unions representing its staff reject plans for more competitive pay levels and working practices. The company asked pilots unions to vote on the offer by 30 September, after which the contract terms negotiated with Airbus would expire. The offer would guarantee parity on pay with rival airlines, with a separate rate for a low-cost discount carrier to be created. Alpa, the union, would be given sole right to determine how the parity target would be determined independently. US Airways also said it would include an employee or union representative on its board.

### BNFL consortium secures £54m contract

A consortium led by British Nuclear Fuels has won a £54m contract to dismantle part of the original Windscale power station in Cumbria which was devastated by the UK's worst nuclear fire in 1957. Forty years on from the fire, the new programme of work, awarded by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, will dismantle the reactor core by remote control and remove the waste for storage at the site. Two huge reactor piles, built in the late 1940s for the atomic weapon programme, were closed and sealed in concrete after fire, which began after the reactor core overheated.

### Lonrho close to colliery acquisition

Lonrho PLC said it has signed a memorandum of understanding to buy Tavistock Collieries from JCI for £1.7bn (£229m). The transaction is subject to a due diligence investigation to be finalised by the end of the month. Lonrho said it was reviewing its funding and structural options and envisaged that the acquisition would be made through its Duiker Mining subsidiary.

### Independent Energy sets completion dates

Independent Energy, the power trader and generating company which floated on the stock market last year, pledged that its first two significant power stations would be nearing completion by November. Earlier delays to the projects had prompted a profits warning this year. The company said turnover in the year to the end of June was £11m, up from £66,000 the previous year, while losses increased from £86,000 to £1.2m, reflecting the delays to planning permissions and the increased investment. The two power stations, which will generate 17 megawatts of power, are at Caythorpe near Bridlington and Trumfield near Doncaster.

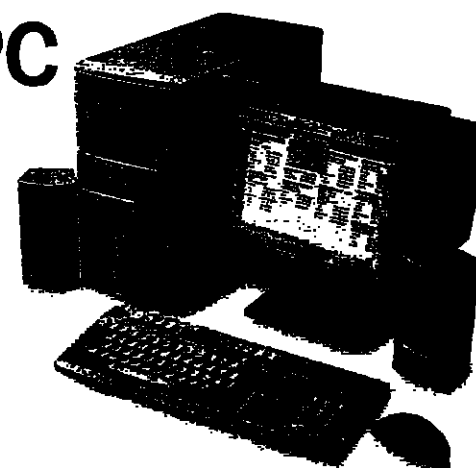
### Review of BA-AA tie-up starts in US

The US Department of Transportation has begun its formal review of the British Airways-American Airlines alliance, giving opponents of the tie-up seven weeks to lodge their objections. The two airlines are still hopeful of getting clearance by the end of November even though the deal has yet to be approved by regulatory authorities in London, Brussels and Washington.

# MJN Office '97 PC

MJN's 200M system based on Intel Pentium® 200MHz processor with MMX™ technology, large 4.3Gb hard disk, 32Mb RAM, superb 15" screen and 33.6 voice modem is now available with Microsoft® Office 97 at just £1099 + VAT

The new 200M-2 system featuring a faster IBM MX processor with MMX™ technology provides the highest specification with a massive 64Mb RAM, 56K voice modem, 24 max speed CD and latest SIS advanced graphics using 4Mb and 3D Waveblaster stereo sound - all at an amazing £1189 + VAT

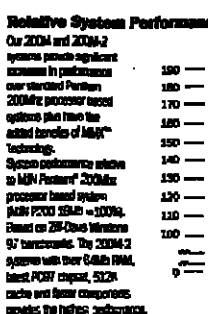


## MJN 200M Office '97 PC

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- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 16 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- 33.6 V34+ voice modem
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- Microsoft Office 97 bundle with 8 applications
- Windows® 95 and additional applications
- Standard features listed

£1291.33 Including VAT

£1099 Plus VAT



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- 66MHz PR200 processor with MMX™ technology
- 64Mb EDO RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 24 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- 56K fax voice modem
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen (11" £150 + VAT = £176.25 extra)
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- SIS 64-bit advanced graphics using 4Mb system RAM
- 3D stereo sound with Waveblaster software
- SoundForce 525 stereo mains powered speaker system
- MJN advanced ATX mid tower system
- Microsoft Office 97 bundle with 8 applications
- Windows® 95 and additional applications
- Standard features listed

£1397.08 Including VAT

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## Microsoft Office 97

- These systems include the Microsoft® Office® 97 bundle with full printed manuals and CD's. Programs include Microsoft® Word® 97, Excel® 97, Outlook® 97, Publisher® 97, FrontPage® 97, Internet Explorer® 3, AutoRoute Express and MSN 3.0 day trial.

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## BBA keeps up a cracking pace

BBA has been a cracking investment since the arrival of Roberto Quarta as chief executive in November 1993. Since then the shares have outperformed the market by over 45 per cent, but the recent spurt in the share price, now just off its all-time high after rising 18.5p to 416.5p yesterday, seems to have come as the market has woken up to the fact that the group would be relatively unscathed by sterling's recent strength.

The latest interim results to June, showing a healthy 11 per cent rise to £80.2m before exceptional, confirmed that view. But investors' attention is now likely to turn to how Mr Quarta can maintain the storming pace of his first four years at the helm.

As he freely admits, the 60 per cent growth rate in underlying margins since 1993 is unsustainable. Even so, the apparently modest growth in the latest period was heavily affected by problems with new products launched by Ajax, a maker of specialist metal furnaces. Those should not recur, while Ajax and Haelely Trench, the electrical products operation, may be sold when a review of the operations is completed later this year. That would remove a drag on margins and open the way for further, margin-boosting acquisitions.

Mr Quarta already reckons that, even without further disposals, he has purchasing power of around £200m to add, probably, more bolt-on businesses in developing markets in Asia and Latin America, as well as Europe. A sale of Haelely and Ajax could add as much as £200m more to that firepower, on some analysts' estimates.

Growth has now become the name of the game for BBA and there is plenty to go for. The group is the biggest maker of so-called non-woven textiles, used in everything from nappies and sanitary pads to building industry products. Demand for hygiene products alone is running at 7 to 9 per cent worldwide and is more like 12 to 15 per cent in Asia.

BBA's strong position in servicing the jets used by prestige-seeking US executives has also proved a nice little earner. Organic sales growth of 6.5 per cent in the first half is on a par with non-wovens. The move towards pooling jet use on a "time-share" basis has created a new market which is growing at up to 35 per cent a year.

Even boring old brake pads, the remaining core of the old BBA, managed a chunky 16 per cent sales growth in Germany on the back of new car model programmes. August's £28m acquisition of Becorit in Germany opens up the European rail market and its changeover to new technology, while news of a contract to supply the Chrysler's Grand Cherokee Jeep from 1999 adds weight to BBA's plan to take 10 per cent of the US market for car brake pads by 2000.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

So growth seems assured and if full-year profits hit £162m, the shares stand on a forward p/e of 17. A firm hold.

### Care First hit by clash at the top

Care First, the UK's largest nursing home operator, is in a mess. Keith Bradshaw, executive chairman, has managed to lose a valuable asset in Chai Patel, who joined as chief executive less than a year ago and was seen as the one person with the vision to improve the group's dire performance.

Mr Patel joined last September when his company Court Cavendish merged with Takare, Mr Bradshaw's group. Many predicted then that the two would clash. Mr Patel wanted a free hand, but Mr Bradshaw could not let go of the reins.

It seems that Mr Patel, fed up with having his decisions double-checked, demanded that Mr Bradshaw commit to a date when he would step down to a non-executive role. Mr Bradshaw refused to give it and Mr Patel walked out. This is the third and the most high-

profile departure that Mr Bradshaw has presided over in 12 months.

Though he now says he will become non-executive chairman when a new chief executive joins, it all looks rather late. Institutions are already worried that the company will not find it easy to attract a candidate with Mr Bradshaw still in the executive role. Tony Heywood, director of business development, looks a good choice, but as an ex-Cavendish man his appointment may not find favour with Mr Bradshaw.

Care First is not an attractive prospect. Though Court Cavendish added private pay patients and more beds in the wealthier south, most Takare homes are low quality. Some 8,000 beds of the combined group's 12,500 do not even have en suite bathrooms. That means local authorities are not referring patients who need nursing care to Care First, sending instead residential patients who pay around half the fees of nursing patients.

As a result Care First's fees are flat. And with no proper pension and benefits structure and low wages in some homes, staff turnover is a hefty 40 per cent. The company is having to use employment agencies, which added £2.5m to costs in the first half. That, plus the costs of modernising the IT system and

occupancy pressures, led to a worrying fall in margins in the half year to June. Though those pressures will ease and a halt on building new homes will help raise average occupancy, the company will remain under pressure.

Laing & Buisson, the nursing home analyst, forecasts £21m full-year profits. A bid is a possibility, but the fundamentals make the shares, down 3p to 103p, unattractive.

### Charter results dispel doubts

The £380m acquisition of Howden, the Glasgow-based fan builder, has done little to lift the cloud under which shares in Charter have been resting since the middle of last year. But if the market had reservations about that acquisition, they should have been dispelled somewhat by yesterday's interim figures from the welding rods to railway track group.

Virtually flat profits of £51.5m at the pre-tax level for the six months to June hid a 12 per cent advance when the effects of currencies are stripped out. Charter's confidence in the outlook is reflected in a 5.6 per cent lift in the half-time dividend to 9.5p.

Initial views about Howden seem to have been borne out, now that Charter management, led by chairman and chief executive Jeffrey Herbert, have had over four months to take a proper look at it. Negotiations are under way for the disposal of under-performers, including the loss-making tunnel drilling and boring business and European packaging and handling businesses. That will give an immediate boost towards reaching Charter's target of raising Howden's margins from around 5 to above 10 per cent over the next two to three years, in line with the competition.

Beyond that, Mr Herbert and his team have already got down to work sorting out Howden's rather uncoordinated manufacturing base around the world. Charter reckons the resulting factory closures and redundancies will cost a relatively modest £25m in the full-year results. So the prospects look good for a repeat of Charter's success with Esab, the Swedish welding rods group, where margins have trebled since it was acquired in 1994.

There should be more to go for at Esab. Profits there advanced from £40.3m to £42m, despite a drop in European sales. That market should bounce back soon, while developing markets in Asia and Latin America should provide long-term growth.

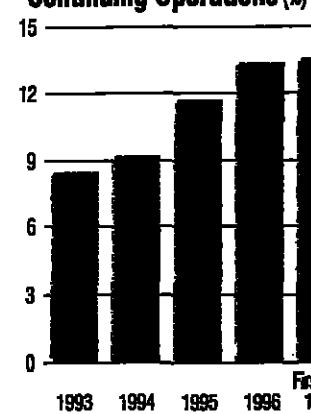
Full-year profits of £103m would put the shares, up 22.5p to 803.5p, on a forward multiple of 12. Newly moved into the engineering sector from conglomerates, Charter's 30 per cent discount to the market is undeserved. Buy.

### BBA: At a glance

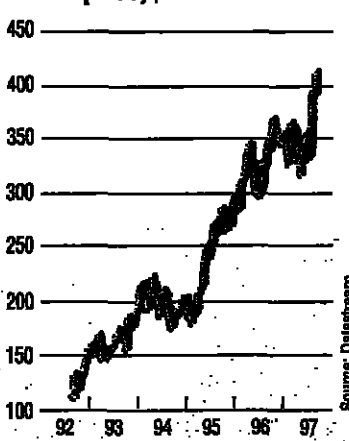
Market value: £1.73bn, share price 416.5p (+18.5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
		Full year	Half year	Half year	Half year
Turnover (£bn)	1.38	1.18	1.10	0.57	0.58
Pre-tax profits (£m)	63.9	66.8	142	83.1	78.3
Earnings per share (p)	6.4	2.4	20.7	12.5	11.8
Dividends per share (p)	4.75	6.0	7.0	2.1	2.4

### Margins, Continuing Operations (%)



### Share price, pence



## Alternative utility payment system may be floated

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

Investors in PayPoint, the computerised utility bill payment system launched yesterday, are considering floating the business on the stock market when the company completes its investment programme.

The news emerged as the first computer terminals started operations, allowing customers who normally settle their bills in cash an alternative payment system to the Post Office or the high street banks. PayPoint is targeted at six million households which pay some or all of their utility bills in cash, with many on pre-payment meters. The aim is to provide a Pay-

Point terminal no more than a mile from any household in urban areas or within five miles in rural communities. Customers hand over the cash and are given a receipt, which utility companies accept as proof of payment.

PayPoint is investing £35m in the system, which will be available at 7,300 retailers across the UK. More than half the company, which was formed last year, is owned by Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply business, and British Telecom. Other shareholders include Severn Trent Water and the BBC.

The service is free to customers, with PayPoint charging a small, undisclosed, fee to the utility companies for each trans-

action. "We are cheaper than any form of competition," said Dick Horsnell, chairman. The launch began with terminals going live in London. Other areas of the country will follow by the end of the year.

Mr Horsnell admitted to being disappointed at the lack of interest in the service from regional electricity companies, although London Electricity was a founder shareholder and Northern Electric and Norweb had both agreed to join.

He confirmed that shareholders were interested in floating the business, although it was unlikely to happen until 2000 at the earliest. Some 24 per cent of the company is owned by employees.

## Burford shares slide as founder steps down

Magnus Grimond

Shares in Burford slid to a 17-month low yesterday after Nick Leslau, one of the property group's founders with Nigel Wray, announced he was bowing out of executive duties. The surprise decision sent the shares 3.5p lower to 104.5p, their lowest level since hitting a peak of 159p in January.

Mr Leslau, who will move up to the non-executive position of deputy chairman, is to be replaced as chief executive by John Anderson, an insider. Nigel Wray, the other moving force behind the company, is to remain as chairman.

Mr Leslau, who will not receive a pay-off but will be forced to cash in options currently showing a profit of £2.2m, said his decision to relinquish the chief executive's role had no connection with the collapse last week of merger talks with rival property group MEPC. He denied reports that the discussions failed because of differences over who was to fill management roles at the enlarged group.

"There was never any chance that Nigel and I would become lifelong MEPC employees. There was some discussion about us coming in and seeing if we could add value to MEPC."

Mr Leslau said his decision

to leave was prompted rather by the group's increasing proportions compared with his 2 per cent shareholding. "Burford has become such a size that my personal stake is rather small. Having built up the company over 10 or 15 years and brought on a fantastic management team, I want to go off and do it again and this time with a bigger stake."

Analysts said Mr Leslau's departure left the group vulnerable to a predator. Selwyn Jones of Credit Lyonnais Laing said: "Burford is crying out to be taken over, to my way of thinking."

The shares have been hit over concerns at Burford's diversification strategy, including the Trocadero, the troubled owner of the leisure centre at London's Piccadilly Circus, and the failure of the MEPC merger talks. The share price is now standing below net asset value, put at around 118p a share by Mr Anderson.

Mr Wray emphasised that he would be continuing in the same role as before and would not be selling shares in the group. "We have created a rock-solid company with significant growth potential," he said.

Mr Anderson, who comes from Dundee, has been running the group's property business since March 1996 after 17 years in the property division of Lad-



Nick Leslau, who is bowing out of executive duties: 'I want to go off and do it again, this time with a bigger stake'

broke. He said the company would focus on property investments in the UK and in time reduce its holdings in associated businesses such as Trocadero and Columbus, the travel publisher.

Although investors had become disillusioned with Mr Leslau's recent performance, analysts remain cautious about Mr Anderson. UBS analyst Ray Jones commented: "John An-

derson is a very capable property guy but as a chief executive he's an unknown and must show the City what he can do."

Mr Leslau, who received total pay of £396,000 last year, said he still had to finalise his plans for the future. "The intention is to find a suitable shell and probably inject some suitable assets into it and probably get Nigel along as an investor."

## Queens Moat may seek debt for equity swap

Andrew Yates

Queens Moat Houses, the debt-laden hotel group, said yesterday it was considering plans for a financial restructuring after reporting a pre-tax profit of £5.2m for the six months to June compared to a loss of £3.1m in the first half of last year. QMH said it was likely to seek a debt for equity swap but refused to be drawn on any timetable for the deal.

Andrew Coppel, QMH's chief executive, said: "We are not under any pressure to undergo a financial restructuring."

Mr Coppel also vowed to de-

fend vigorously a court action brought against the group by four former directors which is due to start on 3 October.

Lead by John Bainslow, the group's former chairman, they are claiming wrongful dismissal. They allege that QMH's new management, not themselves, was responsible for the huge £11m loss the group made in 1992.

Mr Coppel said the QMH was also considering suing Bird Luckin, the group's former accountants, and Weatherall Green & Smith, the property advisers who used to value its hotels, over their role in QMH's

financial problems. Earlier this year the group issued a High Court writ to Bird Luckin.

However Mr Coppel said yesterday: "We are reserving judgement on whether to take further action against Bird Luckin and Weatherall."

QMH plans to accelerate rapidly its capital expenditure programme to take advantage of the strong recovery in the UK hotel market. It will spend up to £40m this year compared to just £29m in 1996.

QMH's debts fell to £819m compared to £933m at the end of last year after it received

£91.5m from the sale of 25 UK hotels.

The group confirmed it will continue to sell hotels to fund its spending programme and pay off debts. It has recently sold two hotels in Germany and has identified a number of other hotels in its 35-strong chain over there which will be disposed off in the near future.

"We have identified a core portfolio of hotels which contribute 80 per cent of our German profits. We will take the opportunity to dispose of our non-core properties," said Mr Coppel.

## Former BZW head is the new Invisibles man

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Sir Brian Pearce: Former banking big wheel is to retire from British Invisibles

British Invisibles, those brave battlers on behalf of Britain's financial sector, have appointed a new director general to take us into the Millennium.

Jeremy Seddon, 57, retired as chairman of BZW/Barclays India last January, and will arrive at the private sector body just as it is about to lose its popular chairman, Sir Brian Pearce. Sir Brian, a former big wheel at both Barclays and Midland, is due to retire from British Invisibles before Christmas, although the group is coy about naming his successor.

Mr Seddon has signed up for an initial three years to promote UK-based financial institutions and professional firms to audiences around the world. He succeeds the Honourable Alison Wright.

A Freeman of the City of London, Mr Seddon started his career with Associated Electrical Industries, leaving in 1968 to join Dalgety. From there he joined Barclays Merchant Bank (which was later folded into BZW), where he founded the privatisation and government advisory business.

This gave Mr Seddon the springboard to a whole clutch of privatisations, including London Buses, the Australian Federal Airports Corporation, Sumbank in Turkey and National Steel in the Philippines.

Paribas has done very well with its mergers and acquisitions business in Paris, and now it wants to do the same in London, where it has snapped up Oliver Ellingham from Charterhouse to build an Anglo-Saxon style M&A operation.

Before joining Charterhouse in 1995 Mr Ellingham spent 11 years at Flemings, three of those with Bill Harrison before the latter hit the jackpot at BZW. "I learnt a lot from Bill," Mr Ellingham fondly recalls.

Although Mr Ellingham is reluctant to talk about his time at Charterhouse other than to say he enjoyed it, City observers say that the French and German owners of the merchant bank restricted its corporate finance operations too much.

In contrast, at Paribas Mr Ellingham may get a whiff of the France Telecom sell-off. He will also be recruiting more people, in order to give the French a true taste of how low the cost of corporate finance. "I will certainly be recruiting, but I don't see huge numbers," he says. "I will take people on as appropriate."

Mr Ellingham will be using his 14 years' experience in M&A to build a business which will concentrate on cross-border deals, particularly between the UK and US.

He joins the executive committee of Paribas Advisory Service and will report to its worldwide head, Thierry Varenne, who recently joined the French bank from BZW.

Fancy buying a rural retreat up north? A charming farmhouse in Holmthorpe, Yorkshire, is up for sale for around the £90,000 mark. The seller is Peter Young, the former asset manager who made some rather odd stock selections for his Deutsche Morgan Grenfell funds.

Bill Thurman, chief executive of Harrisons & Crosfield, is a worried man. The company

isn't selling nearly as much malt for beer-making as it used to.

The reason? Germans are drinking less. Mr Thurman says: "There has been a significant fall-off in German beer consumption. And we still haven't seen a rise, despite the recent good export figures for Germany (following the falling mark). There's no sign of a return of the feelgood factor among German drinkers."

Some observers suggest that this drying up, at the behest of the German government, is due to high German unemployment, leading to less cash for boozing. But wouldn't the unemployed want to drown their sorrows? All very confusing. Pass me a stein.

They're all at it on the Continent, but it looks like we might finally be catching up. Mixing law firms up with accountancy practices, that is. Beaumonts Ernst & Young have recruited Andrew Daws, formerly a heavy hitter with law firm Denton Hall, as a "full time consultant". E&Y's senior partner Nick Land says Mr Daws' job is to advise him whether the firm should link up with a law firm or try to grow its own legal practice.

"We favour the former course," says Mr Land, "and we see Andrew playing a significant role whichever option we go for. The ultimate aim is to build a global law firm."

Ambitious stuff - until you realise that the Swiss, Spanish, Italians, Dutch and French already have combined law and accountancy firms. Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse have had a go in the UK.

Other law firms better watch out. Ernst hasn't necessarily stopped recruiting with Mr Daws. Mr Land warns: "If they've got good guys, we'll have 'em."

John Willcock

## Spring Ram goes back into the black

Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

Spring Ram, the kitchens and bathrooms business being nursed back to health by Roger Regan, reported its first operating profit for three years yesterday as the company expressed cautious optimism about the future.

The half-year operating profit of £100,000 on sales of £116.5m is the first trading surplus since 1994, the year after Bill Rooney, the company's co-founder, left the group as part of a boardroom clear-out. Though each division reported an improved trading performance, the group still made a pre-tax loss of £1.4m in the six months to 28 June due to interest charges on debts which were down to £29m at the half-year stage. This compares to a loss of £20.4m in the first half last year.

Spring Ram is expected to break even at the pre-tax level in the full year and make a profit of £5.5m-£6m in 1998. The core businesses are in reasonable shape.

Mr Regan is the father of Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur who led the abortive £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-Op earlier this year. However, he refused to comment on the failure of the bid, which ended in a welter of litigation. "He speaks for himself," Roger Regan said.

He said that in spite of competitive markets Spring Ram's sales improvement in recent weeks together with a strong order book indicated some modest improvement in underlying activities in the UK. However Mr Regan said export sales, which account for around 14 per cent of the business, continued to be affected by the strength of sterling.

The Stag furniture group remains the worst performing part of the Spring Ram portfolio. It reported halved operating losses of £600,000 in the period. The Mr Regan has already said Stag is "non-core" he said the upturn in its fortunes meant it may be retained for while before a decision is made. There was no half-year dividend. The shares were unchanged at 10.5p.

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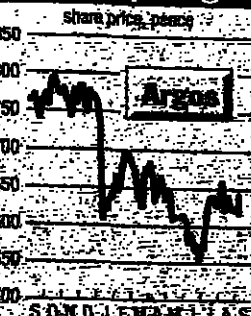
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## Data Bank

FTSE 100	4950.5	-34.7
FTSE 250	4677.0	-9.1
FTSE 350	2386.9	-14.4
SEAQ VOLUME	704.6m shares	
40,268 bargains		
Glits Index	97.34	-0.012

## Share spotlight



## Sun Life mounts late challenge for Footsie membership

## Taking Stock

Footsie calculations were thrown into eleventh hour confusion as Sun Life and Provincial mounted a late and surprise bid for membership of the exclusive City club.

The insurance group issued 247.56 million shares yesterday to Axia-UAP, the French insurer, and with the shares climbing 8.5p to a 411.5p peak the company's overall market valuation stretched to £3.3bn, big enough for one of the stock market's elite.

It had been known for some time that Sun Life would issue a block of shares to take over Axia Equity & Law Life for £690m. Shareholders approved the deal in July. But the takeover could not be tied up until Sun Life received regulatory approvals, the last came through on Monday, clearing the way for Sun Life to become the major British vehicle for the French giant.

Membership is not jeopardised by the takeover lifting the French stake from 60.2 per cent to 72.4 per cent. The index requirement is that there must be a 25 per cent free float.

The French will sell six million shares in the next six months but the Axia-UAP interest will not be significantly reduced until the year 2000 when it will be cut to 65 per cent. In the meantime the French vote will be 65 per cent.

Such a big shareholding clearly reduces liquidity. With Prudential Corporation holding about 6 per cent the number of "unattached" shares is very low, suggesting the price could romp ahead as index funds scramble to accumulate their intended weighting. The FTSE steering committee meets today to decide the quarterly Footsie changes, based on yesterday's capitalisations.



## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

which Union, Woolwich and the Billiton mining group are assured of places. Williams, the fire protection and security group with interim figures today, should also creep into the calculations. It, too, has made a late challenge. Last week it gave its shares a boost by revealing it was moving from the down-market conglomerate sub-section to a more highly regarded sector. Its interim results are widely expected to be encouraging, with a 9 per cent gain; there is also talk that a share buy-back will be announced. The shares, 358.5p a week ago, gained a further 6p to 374.5p.

Williams was unhappy over

its Footsie relegation early this year. It was involved in the £1.3bn takeover of Chubb Security which depressed its shares at the time Centrica, demerged from British Gas, was big enough to claim automatic membership.

The expected promotion of five companies means Footsie will experience its biggest upheaval since December 1995. The five destined to drop out are Hanson, the remnant of Lord Hanson's once feared conglomerate which has been a member since the index was started in 1984, and its one-time subsidiary, Imperial Tobacco. Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, is also doomed. So, it

would seem, are Burmah Castrol and Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager.

Footsie's performance yesterday was uninspiring; it fell 34.7 points to 4,950.5 with most retailers lowered by a survey confirming the pace of sales growth was slowing down. Argos, the catalogue stores chain, bucked the trend, gaining 28p to 644.5p following investment meetings.

Reuters, the information provider, led the blue chip leader board with a 19.5p gain to 667p, with UBS offering support. P&O, up 13.5p to 674p, continued to draw strength from Bovis flotation plans.

Guinness frothed up 7p to 562.5p as NatWest Securities drew attention to the disparity which had opened up with planned merger partner Grand Metropolitan, off 4p at 580p. The Guinness price also contains a 4.9p dividend. Matthew Clark, the cider and wine

group, sank to a new seven-year low of 225.5p after an uneventful trading statement. Last year's corresponding report, showing the impact of alcohol on cider sales, devastated the shares; they lost a third of their value in one day.

Biocompatibles International crashed 41.5p to 732.5p on fears that its proposed link with US giant Johnson & Johnson will not materialise but Compel, a computer group, jumped 34.5p to 235p following a 59.4 per cent profit advance.

La Senza was stripped another 26.5p to 38.5p on increased losses and Burford, the property group, fell 4p to 104p as Nick Leslau stepped down as chief executive.

Tradeport Financial gained 6.5p to 122.5p despite the big cuts in Stock Exchange trading charges. Newcomer IS Solutions reached 135.5p from a 134p placing.

Save, the petrol retailer, was little changed at 68p. It is regarded as a possible target for oil majors but the latest name in the bidding frame is Tesco. Some intriguing buying of Save shares occurred yesterday. Any bid would probably be around 130p.

Little Cambridge Mineral Resources could be on the verge of linking with De Beers, the South African diamond giant. Irish rumours say De Beers wants to forge an alliance with CMR to develop its promising Inishowen prospect in County Donegal. The shares firmed to 12.5p.

Robotic Technology, placed on Oxfex at 20p last year, was for a time trading above 100p following more sales and news it has become cash-positive. The shares closed up 1p at 95.5p.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: F in rights; E in dividend; A in all; U in all; S in all; P in all; D in all; L in all; M in all; N in all; O in all; R in all; T in all; V in all; W in all; X in all; Y in all; Z in all.

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Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

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## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
BT	100000	SynK Biotech	90000	Parade Int'l	70000	Standard Char	60000
Shell Transport	100000	BP	70000	Vodafone	70000	ASDA Group	60000
Carlsberg	100000	BTI	70000	Luxcel	60000	BP Ind	60000
Marshall	100000	BTI	70000	Parade Int'l	70000	BT Ind	60000

## FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 4950.5 down 3.3	11.00 4952.5 down 22.3	14.00 4939.4 down 45.8
09.00 4957.4 down 41.4	12.00 4953.5 down 41.4	15.00 4919.5 down 35.3
10.00 4961.1 down 24.1	13.00 4945.5 down 38.7	Close 4950.5 down 34.7

## 1997 Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
34	08	Stashbury	31	+1	3	285 4582	30	57	Winsty	30	+	+	3
340	260	Stash Pte	19	-	36	223 4088	30	67	Warner Hnd	28	-	50	18 44
267	18	Smart & Co	232	-	5	7 4582	284	276	Waste Mngt	257	-	50	18 44
15	10	Smith James	147	-	51	50 4961	31	230	Waste Rec	230	+	52	32 44
138	04	Spangberg	23	-	25	44 4345	38	40	Wattman	37	-	32	15 50
85	01	St Morgan	13	-	44	41 4968							



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**Grin**

[illegible]

Laurenson Imperial UK Mgt Acc	412.8	234.6	Gen Life Can Century Mgt	161.0	-
Laurenson Managed Acc Br 3	369.3	371.1	Gen Life Can Century Mgt	161.0	802.4
Laurenson UK Equity Acc	700.6	740.4	Gen Life Can Maple Leaf En Acc	703.2	522.6
Laurenson UK Equity Acc	661.9	686.1	Gen Life Can Maple Leaf Mgt Acc	946.0	514.0
Lugal & General Equity Acc	1026.8	1708.2	T39 Equity	922.7	316.0
Lugal & General International Acc	676.9	714.7	T39 Managed	382.7	402.2



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# Fraser wound up for West Indies

When England's squad to tour the West Indies was announced, there was a knowing chuckle in some sections of the media at the inclusion of Angus Fraser's name. But when the recall of certain players would have elicited a sneer or a disgusted of Tunbridge Wells harrumph, Fraser's inclusion was met with the kind of appreciative gurgles given only to those whose sweat and honest toil retain a purity every bit as appealing as the most exquisite thoroughbred.

It is 18 months since Fraser last trudged off a field wearing an England sweater. He is a passionate man and he has missed the powerful drama of Test cricket to such an extent, that he deliberately convinced himself that he would not be going anywhere other than his local supermarket this winter.

"If I'm honest," he said yesterday, "it's been a horrible few days. With all the speculation in the press I've been on tenterhooks. I really prepared myself not to go, so it's a great and pleasant surprise to be picked."

"The West Indies is my favourite place to tour. The

## Derek Pringle welcomes the recall of an England cricket stalwart

way they play their cricket and the electricity and racket the spectators generate make it unforgettable from a playing point of view. But you can also get away from the cricket to secluded beaches and relax as well."

Funnily enough, the selectors probably did not bother to take his enthusiasm for most things Caribbean into consideration (he doesn't like Reggae). With his excellent Test record over there - 27 wickets at 22 runs apiece - they did not have to. But while it is true that he is not as nippy as he once was, he is compared with the majority of seam bowlers in the land - an island of economy in a vast sea of profanity.

He realises that with Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Andy Caddick, the trio in possession, he will probably not begin the tour in the Test team. Mind you, he scotches

the implication made by David Graveney that he is some kind of senior pro, there to show 22-year-old Ashley Cowan the ropes.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm not there for a holiday and I'll be looking to impress from the word go and improve on my Test match tally," he said. "I might be in a minority, but I still rate myself as a good bowler capable of succeeding at 'Test level'."

He also points out, not immodestly, that while Glenn McGrath may be a yard or so sharper, they basically operate to the same nagging principles of line and length.

He is a popular player and an even better tourist. Stopped and grumpy with a cricket ball in his hand, his fast, dry and deliciously barbed wit enlivens even the most morose dressing-room.

Indeed when his Middlesex team-mate Phil Tufnell heard of his inclusion, he phoned the big man up and sang: "Oh we're going to Barbados, in the sunny Caribbean sea." Let's face it, anything that can drive a cat to song, has got to have special qualities even if they are only size 13 feet.



Angus Fraser is determined to add to his tally of Test wickets in the Caribbean. Photograph: Empics

# Marsh rallies Kent in title countdown

Steve Marsh, the Kent captain, has urged his side to repeat their match-winning Britannie Assurance Championship display against Gloucestershire for their crucial match with Yorkshire, which starts at Headingly today.

Kent ended Gloucestershire's Championship hopes with their 272-run win last week and are now 4-11 favourites for the title after opening up a 12-point lead over second-placed Glamorgan and an 18-point advantage over Yorkshire, who are third.

Marsh said: "Yorkshire are one of the three sides left in contention for the title. If we play the same way as we did last week, we are going to prove a tough side to beat."

Martin McCague and Gra-

ham Cowdrey should be in contention for Kent, while Paul Strang makes his last appearance before returning to Zimbabwe.

Yorkshire will give England fast bowler Darren Gough a final fitness check before the game. Gough has been troubled by a knee injury, but bowled his full allocation of overs in the Sunday League defeat by Worcestershire.

Essex take on Glamorgan at Sophia Gardens aiming to build on their NatWest Trophy final success. "We know that we simply have to beat Essex," the Glamorgan skipper, Matthew Maynard, said. "If we can do that, it will go down to the final round of matches and we are still very much in the race."

Steve James hopes to be fit to celebrate his England A tour call-up for Glamorgan, while Essex's Ashley Cowan will be celebrating his summons to the party to tour the West Indies.

Fifth meet fourth at Edgbaston, where Warwickshire take on Gloucestershire, with opener Mark Waugh set to return for the hosts.

Wagh, who scored his first Championship century at Chester-le-Street last week, is likely to replace Gloucestershire's Small, the only change from the NatWest Trophy final defeat by Essex.

Championship table						
	P	W	L	D	Net	Run
Kent	15	7	4	4	29	220
Gloucestershire	15	6	7	2	25	220
Yorkshire	15	6	7	2	25	220
Essex	15	6	7	2	25	220
Warwickshire	15	6	7	2	25	220
Middlesex	15	6	7	2	25	220
Gloucestershire	15	6	7	2	25	220
Warwickshire	15	6	7	2	25	220
Essex	15	6	7	2	25	220
Gloucestershire	15	6	7	2	25	220
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**Fighting talk**  
Angus Fraser is out to rock  
the West Indies, page 25

## sport

**Roll over Moldova**  
Trevor Haylett with the World  
Cup strugglers, page 24

# Hoddle determined to keep minds on Moldova

GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

Glenn Hoddle may have come to international management short on experience but his learning curve has been steep. In barely a year as England coach he has had to counsel players on alcoholism, drug abuse, wife beating, drink-driving and anger management. He has faced a constant parade of injuries, lost England's unbeaten home World Cup record, won a prestigious foreign tournament and helped orphanage in Georgia. Through all this, he has retained his self-control and public respect. Tonight he is being tested by two new

wildly differing situations which will again examine his personal and professional skills. In normal circumstances tonight's World Cup qualifying tie with Moldova would be a formality—the only doubt would be about how many goals England score. These are unusual times, however, and, though the country is returning to normal, tonight's game will inevitably be overshadowed by tragedy. It is Hoddle's task to ensure his team behave appropriately while not losing their professional edge. To this end, he has been drawn into the FA's deliberations about such matters as when and if Elton John's *Candle In The Wind* tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, should be played.

Professionally he has also been dealing with a complex situation. Four England players, David Beckham, David Batty, Graeme Le Saux and Robert Lee, are carrying a yellow card and, if booked tonight, will miss England's final qualifying tie with Italy in Rome. With Alan Shearer out and Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams already doubtful for that game, and further injuries almost inevitable, Hoddle can ill-afford to lose more players. Leave them out then is the obvious suggestion. But it's not as simple as that. If England come second in the group, tonight's result could determine whether they qualify automatically as second place finishers or have to enter a play-

off. That is unlikely as Moldova will probably — but not definitely — come bottom of the group and their results be thus ruled after the reckoning. There is another dilemma. If he does leave any of the quartet out, he is essentially telling them they cannot be trusted not to get booked. Beckham, having

been suspended from England's game with Brazil after successive bookings in Le Tournoi, could especially feel that way. Beckham was showing the loss of control that led to his booking on a selection of video clips presented to the team last week and Hoddle said: "I wanted to show that to him in front of everyone else. We had a good laugh about it but it has sunk home to him. He saw it with his own eyes. There are signs of a problem there and we need to stamp on it for him to progress as a player. He gets carried away with things he doesn't need to get carried away with. It's not just youthful enthusiasm, you don't see Gary Neville doing it." More generally he added: "As

a coach, you never want to look ahead to the next game but I am forced into that position. I have to pick a team to win this game while considering whether to protect the four or take a chance. They need to make sure they are not booked for something stupid like backchat or not going back 10 yards at a free-kick. Being booked for a mistimed tackle is part of life. We would have to live with that. If I start with any of them I will consider taking them off if a game is won."

With Batty the decision may be taken out of Hoddle's hands as he is struggling to overcome a foot injury. The only other doubt is Gary Pallister whose back remains sore. The big question is who plays alongside Ian Wright in attack. Paul Scholes seems sure to start, but with so many midfielders facing possible suspension Hoddle may play behind Wright and Les Ferdinand. "Moldova are not strong in the air," Hoddle said. Even with Shearer, Sheringham and Robbie Fowler injured, he has several options. By the kick-off, England will know how Italy fared in Georgia. "I don't expect anything but an Italian victory," Hoddle said. By the time that result comes through, England will be attempting to put last week's tragedy at the back of their minds. "It's a professional thing, something within you," Hoddle said. "I've done it person-

ally. I had a bereavement in the family and played the next day and scored. I just had to switch off. I learned it from the Liverpool lads I've played with for England. Some of the things they did between matches you would not recommend but an hour before kick-off they became different people. It was an eye-opener for me. "Moldova will be tougher than some people think. They did not lose 3-0 in Italy and held them at home for more than an hour. The perfect scenario will be to get the points and beat them heavily to give everyone a lift. But whether it's 7-0 or 1-0 the important thing is to win."

# England put their trust in Fraser

DEREK PRINGLE  
Cricket Correspondent

The specialisation of English cricket was begun at Lord's yesterday when David Graveney announced three squads to go to three different destinations. But if some names are common to two of the three teams selected, the common thread linking them is the one hoping to haul English cricket back to the top of the pile by the start of the 21st Century.

In all, 36 players will find themselves representing their country at senior level this winter. Of those, perhaps the most surprising — though not necessarily the most contentious — is Angus Fraser, who won one of the two remaining pace bowling places up for grabs in front of Dominic Cork and Chris Lewis.

The 32-year-old Middlesex seam bowler, who played his last Test in Cape Town 18 months ago, joins 22-year-old Essex pace bowler Ashley Cowan for the West Indies tour next January. Although he is keen to dispel the implications, Fraser's presence is bound to be seen as the old warriors brought along to educate the colt.

It is a relationship Graveney more or less confirmed, saying that the introduction of Cowan more or less demanded the presence of a rounded (in the cricketer's sense) senior figure like Fraser, who has, according to those who have seen him recently, been bowling far better than his 44 wickets at 29.11 would suggest.

For Cowan, known to his Essex team-mates as Dik-dik, on account of his strange ruminant-like gait, the selection caps a memorable few days. With Mark Elliott injured for much of the summer, Cowan, in

his first full season for the county, has had to carry the Essex attack. But for a sore shoulder, he has hoped manfully and his 3 for 29 in last Sunday's NatWest final was, as Graveney put it, "simply the icing on the cake". With Darren Gough, Andy Caddick and Dean Headley likely to start off as the trio of choice, it meant there was no place for Cork or Devon Malcolm, who has pledged he will stay fit during the winter should injury strike those on the frontline. Not so long ago it was Cork who was the premier bowler around which the attack was built, and yesterday Graveney was quick to acknowledge that a fit Cork would undeniably be an asset to England.

Unhappily it is a situation that has altered alarmingly, with both injury and disenchantment virtually bringing his and Derbyshire's season to a standstill. In the circum-

stances, the selectors felt he needed to be physically and temperamentally rehabilitated in England and not on the A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka. The only other selection for the Caribbean that would have occupied much time was that of Mark Butcher, Surrey's left-handed opening batsman. However, he is not necessarily guaranteed a place in the Test side. As David Graveney pointed out, Atherton and Stewart scored almost 1,000 runs at an average of over 50 apiece opening the innings together in the Caribbean four years ago. Figures like that are difficult to argue with and Jack Russell may yet find himself back in favour with the gloves.

With the selectors keen to promote continuity Butcher, who played in all but one of the six Test matches against Australia, got the nod in front of Nick Knight and Steve James, who in-

stead find themselves being consigned as captain and vice-captain respectively of the A tour, though Knight, along with Warwickshire team-mates Dougie Brown and Ashley Giles, will also tour Sharjah under Adam Hoolioake.

The appointment means that Hoolioake senior has more or less been put in charge of England's bid to win the 1999 World Cup, for which Sharjah is seen as an important stepping stone. Curiously, he will not go as vice-captain to the West Indies where Nasser Hussain retains the role as Atherton's deputy.

For Hoolioake junior, a pause from the fairytale chain of events. Potential can be a volatile thing and the selection panel clearly felt that the advancement of Ben Hoolioake would be better served in Sharjah and Sri Lanka, than in Bridgetown or Port of Spain, where the 12th man's role as glorified wicket-keeper could well have quenched his teen spirit.

With the emphasis of the A team clearly being on youth — Hoolioake is joined by several of his under-19 colleagues like Andrew Flintoff, David Sales as well as current Youth World Cup players Owais Shah and Essex's Jonathan Powell — English cricket is at last getting the message that the deep end is a good place to learn and be learned about.

The players in all three squads plus the management will all congregate in Lanzarote for a week from 3 to 10 November where they will work on fitness and those all-important bonding sessions. If England's cricket is to go forward, it must surely unstick itself first. Frolicking in the Canary Islands is all very well, but it is unlikely to be much help when Curtly Ambrose has got his tail up at the Kensington Oval and 10,000 Bajaners are screaming for him to let some blood.



Mike Atherton takes evasive action from a ball by Courtney Walsh during England's last tour of the West Indies nearly four years ago. Photograph: David Ashdown

**THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD**

Wednesday 10 September By Angela Thursday's Solution

1 Sea creature of power or grace (8)

5 Trim confier (6)

9 Novelist and poet, surprisingly, holding wad of money (8)

10 British champions in the pairs (6)

12 Average beer ordered for a diligent person .... (5-6)

15 ... classical order in a Greek dialect (5)

17 Avian vermicide? (5,4)

18 Feudal boss in Belgian city? (5,4)

19 Turn over fortune opening numbers game (5)

20 This jumper rides up! (11)

24 Pretty Clyde-side girl? (6)

25 Standing in hostile manner (8)

26 Crown exciting media, to a degree (6)

27 Homer's homer? (8)

**DOWN**

1 False trade-plate found in the Lake District (10)

2 High-level plot? (4-6)

3 One who admires well-turned leg in gold stocking (5)

4 Computer sure to crash in Federal halls of justice (7,5)

6 Description of beam in doorway (9)

7 Mac's rare piece of homespun coverlet (4)

8 Language of poetry with no opening verb (4)

11 Having digested too much. Exceedingly dangerous, presumably, according to Pope? (5)

13 Share girl's commendation (10)

14 Dexterity of rodents is a shock (10)

16 Reasonable team in the market-place? (9)

21 Components from Tunis knocked out of shape (5)

22 One offer in the same place (4)

23 Money for a royal government? (4)

**Three burgeoning talents given a chance to shine this winter** by Adam Szreter

**Ashley Cowan**  
(Essex)

A mature performance and three wickets for 29 in the NatWest final against Warwickshire probably altered this winter's destination for the 22-year-old Essex seamer from Sri Lanka, with the A tour, to the Caribbean with the seniors.

An outstanding performer on the golf course, as well as on rugby and hockey pitches, the 6ft 4in Cowan made his Essex debut in the NatWest final but suffered with severe back problems soon after that.

An operation helped to cure a stress fracture, and a remodelled bowling action has since helped to prevent a recurrence, although a shoulder injury has caused some problems this season.

With his open-chested approach Cowan is no more than fast-medium in pace, but his outswinger is already lethal in the right conditions, although his inswinger still needs more work.

As he showed at Lord's, he is capable of dropping on an awkward length when the pressure is on.

His dedication to full-time cricket was questioned when his Essex career began, but any doubts about his temperament seem to have been resolved this season, while his strike rate has also improved dramatically.

**Dougie Brown**  
(Warwickshire)

Altogether all-rounder who rose through the ranks at Edgbaston during the heady days of triples and doubles under Dermot Reeve. A hard-hitting batsman and a brisk medium pace seam bowler, like Cowan he performed well in the NatWest final and must have been close to the full tour.

Again like Cowan, Brown is an all-round sportsman, good enough at football to have played for Scotland Under-18s at Hampden. Brown, 27, was a late starter in cricketering terms and it sometimes shows in a slightly rustic action, but there can be no doubting its effectiveness as he has already taken 75 wickets this season.

The subject this summer of something of a tug-of-war between his Scottish origins and his cricketering aspirations: the Scots would like him to commit himself to their 1999 World Cup campaign but Brown, understandably, is trying to follow a path trodden by his fellow Scot Mike Denness, among others, and play Test cricket for England.

Included in both the one-day and the A tour squads, he has excelled with the ball this season, but his batting has not yet fulfilled its promise as he awaits his maiden first-class century despite passing 500 seven times this year.

**Jonathan Powell**  
(Essex)

Among a number of less well-known names in the A squad, Powell is perhaps the least known of the lot. A tourist with the England Under-19s to Pakistan last summer, the 18-year-old Essex off-spinner made his Championship debut against Leicestershire at Colchester this season, but his first-team opportunities have been limited by the presence of Peter Suck.

According to the Essex coach Keith Fletcher, he is no mean batsman, as a century against Lancashire 2nd XI this season testifies, and he also appeared in the recent Under-19 internationals against Zimbabwe.

"He's a top lad and he wants to go places," says Fletcher, who admitted nevertheless that he was "surprised" by Powell's elevation. "It came completely out of the blue but I'm delighted," Fletcher added.

Another keen golfer, Powell's brother Mark was on the Essex staff for two seasons and now plays Minor Counties cricket for Norfolk.

Winner of the Daily Telegraph Under-15 Bowling Award in 1994, Powell will join the A team in Sri Lanka with his fellow-tourist Owais Shah following their involvement in the Youth World Cup.

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